MAY 2003

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MAY 2003

The circular sweep of a winder stair can add drama and elegance to a stand design as well as perspectival interest to a trip between floors. It may also perfectly suit an oddly angled space. For more reasons you may not want your staircase straight up, see "Stairs With a Twist," page 118

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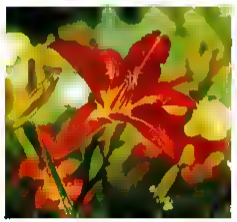

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PHOTOS, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: PASCAL ELANCON; THE TREEHOUSE WORKSHOP; JOHN HAMEL; WEBB CHAPPELL

cover In spring, when the itch to be outdoors is often tempered by a lingering chill, the answer is a room that bridges the seasons. Here a massive flagstone fireplace provides an oasis of warmth on this open patio, while a vine-entwined skeleton "roof" draws nature close. For more, see "Open-Air Rooms," page 126. PHOTOGRAPH BY GREY CRAWFORD

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PHOTOS, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: BILL GREEN (2); SVEN'A LUNDAHL; RICHARD HOWARD; IRANINI TEAK; PETER MEMETSKY

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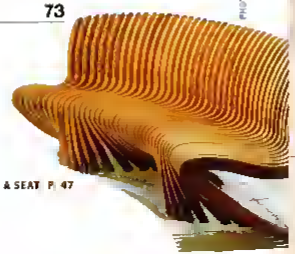

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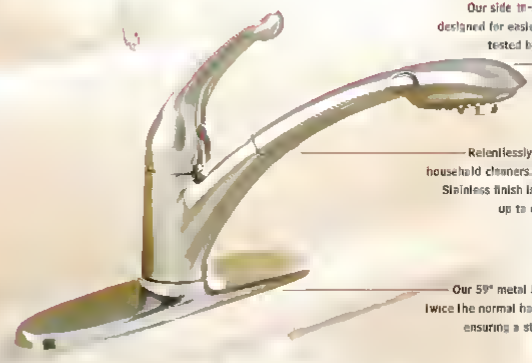

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In "Old Meets Bold" (p. 82), **JOHN MARCHESE** chronicles the 10-year restoration of a 1930s bungalow by Boston architect Mark Connor and his contractor father. It's a story that bears striking similarities to the writer's own. "At around the same age, Mark and I bought our first homes, and suddenly we both needed our fathers to help us," Marchese says. He wrote about his experience—restoring a home in New York's Catskill Mountains—in *Renovations: A Father and Son Rebuild a House and Rediscover Each Other* (Riverhead, 2001). Marchese, who also writes for *The New York Times* and *Philadelphia* magazine, is currently working on a book about violin making.

Specialists in historic renovations and classically inspired new construction, husband-and-wife team **JOHN KRASNODEBSKI** and **KRISTINE BOYARIS** were an ideal pick to design and build *This Old House*'s Dream Kitchen in Lake Forest, Illinois ("Dream Weaving," p. 139). "As architect and contractor, we can get our design built the way we think it should be done," Krasnodebski (the architect) says. "And because the unexpected always happens, we can streamline the whole process by making design decisions on-site." Good thing, too, because the couple had less than three months to finish the job.

"Daylilies are the workhorses of the garden," says **SUZY BALES**. And because these low-maintenance plants come in eye-popping colors, "they make a big visual impact even from a distance." In "Daylilies" (p. 90), Bales writes about new hybrids that offer more choices in color, size, even scent. An award-winning garden writer with seven books in the Burpee American Gardening series, Bales also wrote *A Garden of Fragrance* (Regan Books) and the just-released *Garden Parties* (Clarkson Potter).

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LETTERS

Frugal Pruning

I love the show and the magazine. But I have to comment. In March 2003 ["Pruners and Loppers"], Roger Cook stated that it was worth investing $50 in a good pair of bypass pruners. I really enjoy Roger's advice, but I think spending $50 is unnecessary. I have been in the lawn-maintenance business for 15 years, and I have a great pair of Fiskar bypass pruners that cost me $15. I've had them for 10 years, and they are still in great shape.

TOM GREENWOOD, BY E-MAIL

Order, Please!

I enjoyed your articles on storage solutions in the March 2003 issue, especially the "Take Back Your Garage!" piece [above]. Do you ever have a messiest basement contest? My husband has 15,000 videotapes and 10 years' worth of newspapers in our small basement...and it is like walking through a maze. Any suggestions?

MONA FABRICANT, QUEENS, N.Y.

I was completely energized by the "Take Back Your Garage!" issue, and I'm hoping you can help me finally take back my office (which looks a lot like the "before" garage in your cover story). I'm a writer and I'm buried in papers, books, file folders, and numerous other reference materials. I really need help getting organized, but I don't know where to look.

NEAL YONOVER, CHICAGO, ILL.

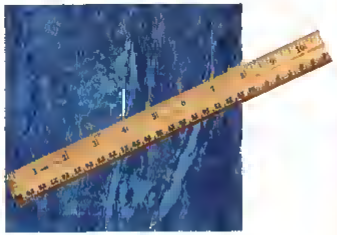
The editors reply: *Whatever the size of your organizing challenge, the rules outlined in "Create Your Own Garage Storage Plan" (page 102, March 2003) can guide you: 1) Clear out, 2) Make a plan, 3) Categorize, 4) Containerize, and 5) Safety proof. Books can also inspire you and help you formulate a plan that works for you; a search on Amazon.com for "organizing" turns up several good choices, or ask at your local bookstore. If you need a little outside help, The Container Store (www.containerstore.com) offers free planning assistance for shoppers. And if you opt to hire a professional organizer, be sure, as you would with any contractor, to get recommendations from previous clients and communicate clearly with the organizer about your needs. Ultimately, just as in dieting or exercising, you are the one who has to take control. No system, alas, however well designed, will work if you don't keep up with it.*

Roger Cook replies: *What I was trying to emphasize was not to buy the cheapest pair on the rack. You found a quality brand at a good price, and look how long they've lasted!*

More Than One Way to Find Your Center

In the March 2003 issue, I was interested in Tom Silva's tip in "Finding Center" on page 15. I believe there is an old carpenter's way of finding the center that requires only one measurement. Simply swing the rule until the next easily divided number meets the edge of the work piece, then mark one half of that number [below]. I have used this method for years. What do you think?

BILL REMS, LANDENBERG, PENN.



Tom Silva replies: *That method works great. In fact, I use it all the time for dividing things, not just in half but also into equal increments. The method I described in the article, though illustrated on a small item, works better when larger measurements are needed, like finding the center of a wall or a window opening.*

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Carpenter Scott Copen found a piece of the past at TOH's Dream Kitchen

Buried Treasure

Builders find lots of things when they rip open old walls. Structural problems are an unpleasant surprise, but some discoveries are just plain fun, as carpenter Scott Copen learned on the *TOH* Dream Kitchen project. "I was tearing out one of the walls," he says, "when down dropped this baseball card." The Topps-issued card features Al Sima, a pitcher with the Washington Senators back in the 1950s. Sima was no Sandy Koufax (the southpaw played for seven minor league teams in nine seasons before getting the call from Washington), so the card isn't worth a lot of cash. Says Copen, "It was just a kick finding something that'd been lying around for decades." Homeowners Mark and Heidi Smith were tickled with the find, too. "We plan to give it a nice home in the scrapbook we're keeping of the project," says Heidi.

PRODUCT RECALL

PRODUCT: Skil Warrior drill battery charger sold nationwide at home centers, hardware stores, and discount shops from July 1994 through February 2003

PROBLEM: Transformer can overheat, possibly igniting flammable materials nearby

WHAT TO DO: Unplug the charger immediately and contact Robert Bosch Tool Corp. at 800-661-5398 for a free replacement.

TOH's New Theme Song

AFTER 23 YEARS, the *This Old House* TV show has a new theme song. The long-standing anthem—Rudy Powell's clarinet solo from Fats Waller's 1935 recording of "Louisiana Fairytale" (by Coots, Gillespie, and Parish)—has been retired due to copyright issues. Replacing it is a new old-timey riff by Boston composer Peter Bell, performed on the clarinet by Billy Novick. "We're delighted with it," says *TOH* executive producer Russ Morash. "The new theme evokes the old but has a style all its own. I look forward to listening to it for many years."

Billy Novick

Fats Waller

PHOTOS, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: GRANT KESSLER; BILLY NOVICK; BETTMANN/CORBIS; CHARLY GROSSMAN

CONTRIBUTORS: Dan DiClerico, Mark Powers

BEFORE & AFTER

This eyesore in Atlanta, Georgia, began life as a fanciful Folk Victorian, one of four on the same block built by Coca Cola company founder Asa Candler around 1897. With two of those structures destroyed, this one seemed destined for the same fate when Kara O'Brien, a neighbor across the street, rescued it from the wrecking ball. Using old photos, she was able to re-create the house's original, steeply gabled second story. Many other details—like the two-over-two windows and 12-foot ceilings—were just waiting to be uncovered.

HAVE YOU DRAMATICALLY ALTERED THE LOOK OF YOUR HOME? IF SO, SEND BEFORE AND AFTER SNAPSHOTS PLUS A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT TO: This Old House/DD, 1185 Avenue of the Americas, 27th floor, New York, NY 10036

PAINTING PLASTIC USED to require an acrylic primer, and even then the finish coat didn't always grab on strong. Thanks to the R&D folks at Krylon, now there's Fusion, a zero-prep spray paint that takes to plastic like a duck to water. It bonds with all kinds of plastic, from polyethylene to PVC to rubber, and even works outside. Available in 16 colors. Starting at $3.99 for a 12-ounce can; *www.krylon.com*; 800-457-6566.

TOH TIP CRACK-FREE CAULK

WHEN USING CAULK TO SEAL THE JOINT BETWEEN wall tile and a bathtub, fill the tub with water first. The weight of the water will open the gap to the size it'll be when the tub is in use. Otherwise, the caulk's seal could break the first time you take a bath.

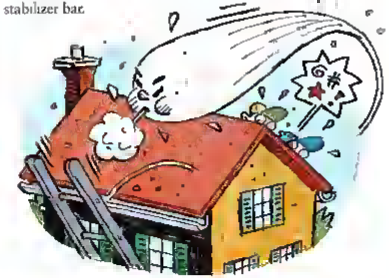
LIGHT ALL AROUND

The plug-in Webbie Light far outshines the average portable work light, which is why *TOH* general contractor Tom Silva keeps a few on every job. The 3-foot-tall retro fixture throws 500-watt halogen brightness in 360 degrees—not just the one direction of a typical tripod work light. Plus, the plastic body is impact-resistant, and the replaceable bulb sits safely behind a cool-to-the-touch, shatterproof dome. Great for all kinds of jobs, from finishing drywall to painting or insulating an attic. Perfect outside, too—say, if you and the kids want to shoot some hoops after dark. Available for $99 from *www.webblelight.com*; 773-463-5900.

Lesson Learned

BY LENNY BELLIVEAU

I'm happy to say this one goes back many years. My helper and I were replacing a chimney on a tall two-story Colonial Revival. We had climbed up the roof using an aluminum ladder set against an aluminum gutter. It was a breezy spring day—that's important—and we got down to dismantling the chimney. About 15 minutes into the job a big gust of wind blows the ladder to the ground. After that, you could've heard a pin drop. The homeowner was out, and the house was on a real quiet back street. Hours went by before I managed to flag down a passing car. You should have seen the grin on the guy's face—I've never been so embarrassed. But it taught me once and for all to always secure a ladder to the house with a rubber-shoed stabilizer bar.



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PHOTOS: LAURA JOHANSEN (TOP RIGHT); FELLER & KELLER (LOWER RIGHT); ILLUSTRATION: ELWOOD SMITH

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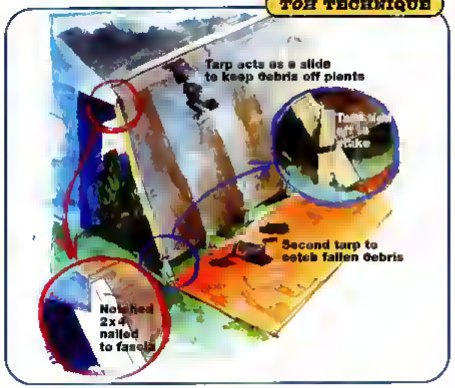
TOH TECHNIQUE



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Designs With Distinction

McMANSIONS BLIGHT THE LANDSCAPE like a plague of bad taste, which is what makes Jeremiah Eck's *The Distinctive Home* (The Taunton Press, 2003) such a timely read. Eschewing mass for measure, Eck identifies key elements that give a house character, including a good marriage of house and site, a comfortable and efficient floor plan, quality details, and a balanced exterior. His ideas are brought to life in page after page of inspiring photos showcasing the kind of well-thought our features that enable even a small house to make a lasting impression. Available at *www.amazon.com* for $28.

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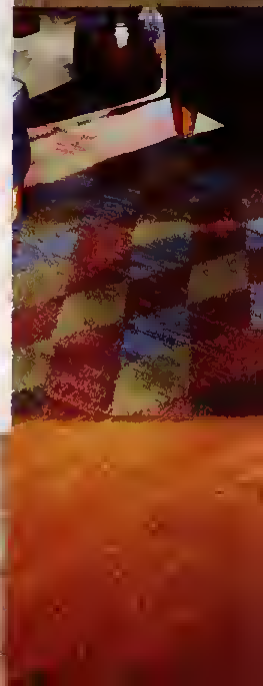

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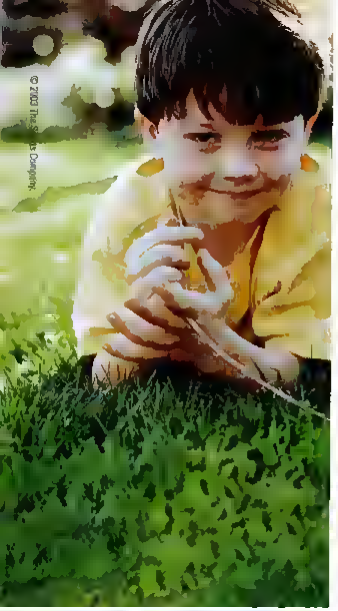

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Raising the Roof

PHOTOS: LAURA JONKHEIS (TOP); GEORGE JEMMY BOTTONI

A RAGING FIRE BLEW THE TOP OFF HILDA AND RAY JONES'S 1900 Queen Anne in Pensacola, Florida. But the really bad news came with the steep bids for rebuilding the complex, five-gabled roof. The couple had just about given up on the project when local architect George Demmy proposed a money-saving solution: constructing the roof out of engineered trusses on the ground and then lifting it into place with a crane.

Even with the rental cost for the crane, the couple saved a ton of money. Work went much faster on the ground, cutting labor costs substantially. The lift was a two-day operation, one for setup and another for the hoist—which earned a rousing cheer from the 400 or so spectators on hand.

WHERE TO FIND IT — SEE DIRECTORY — PAGE 148

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HOUSE CALLS

SMART SOLUTIONS FOR KITCHENS AND BATHROOMS

Cherry panels help turn refrigerators and dishwashers blend seamlessly into the kitchen's traditional look. The central island provides plenty of work and storage space, plus seating for two.

Tom and Mary Ellen Nye are gourmet cooks who love to entertain. So when they turned to New Jersey designer Alan Asarnow to transform the cramped kitchen in their Colonial Revival, they were looking to open up space for two workstations and lots of top-of-the-line appliances. "We wanted two of everything, including commercial grade refrigerators, dishwashers, and ovens. But we also wanted the kitchen to suit the traditional style of our home," says Mary Ellen. With its coffered ceiling, burnished cherry cabinetry, and wainscoted walls, the new space is warm and elegant—while providing restaurant-grade functionality.

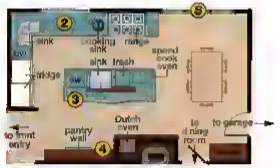
This appliance-packed kitchen caters to serious cooks. Yet it's both inviting and elegant, thanks to the furniturelike details.

STYLIST: MATTHIAS MATTIELLO

PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRANCES JANISCH

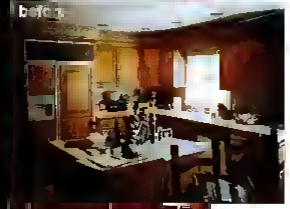
before

after



WHAT THEY DID

1. To gain space the homeowners removed an interior wall so they could expand the kitchen into a neighboring hallway, which had been used as a makeshift butler's pantry. They sealed up a back door in the process.
2. They enlarged the L-shaped layout to accommodate two food-prep/clean-up stations—each with its own sink and dishwasher—and to provide ample counter space and maneuverability for two people to work.
3. A new 9½-foot island holds a sink, dishwasher, speed-cook oven, and roll-out trash bin. Seating on one side allows guests to perch without getting in the way of the cooks.
4. To maximize storage and display space, floor-to-ceiling cabinets and a custom-made hutch now flank the brick wall opposite the island.
5. To access the backyard deck, windows in the dining area were replaced with triple French doors.



The original kitchen [above] was too cramped for two cooks and needed an update. The homeowners enlarged the space to create plenty of elbow room, saving the existing hutch and the brick surround into the new scheme.

FLOOR PLANS: IAN WORPOLE

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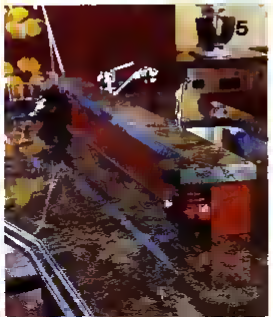
THE DETAILS

Custom cabinetry touches and specialty appliances work together to create a kitchen that's both pleasing to the eye and practical to work in



1 A CUSTOM COVERED HOOD gives the range a hearthlike look, and the built-in mantel serves as a display area. The stamped tin insert behind the cooktop echoes the section of tin ceiling above the island.

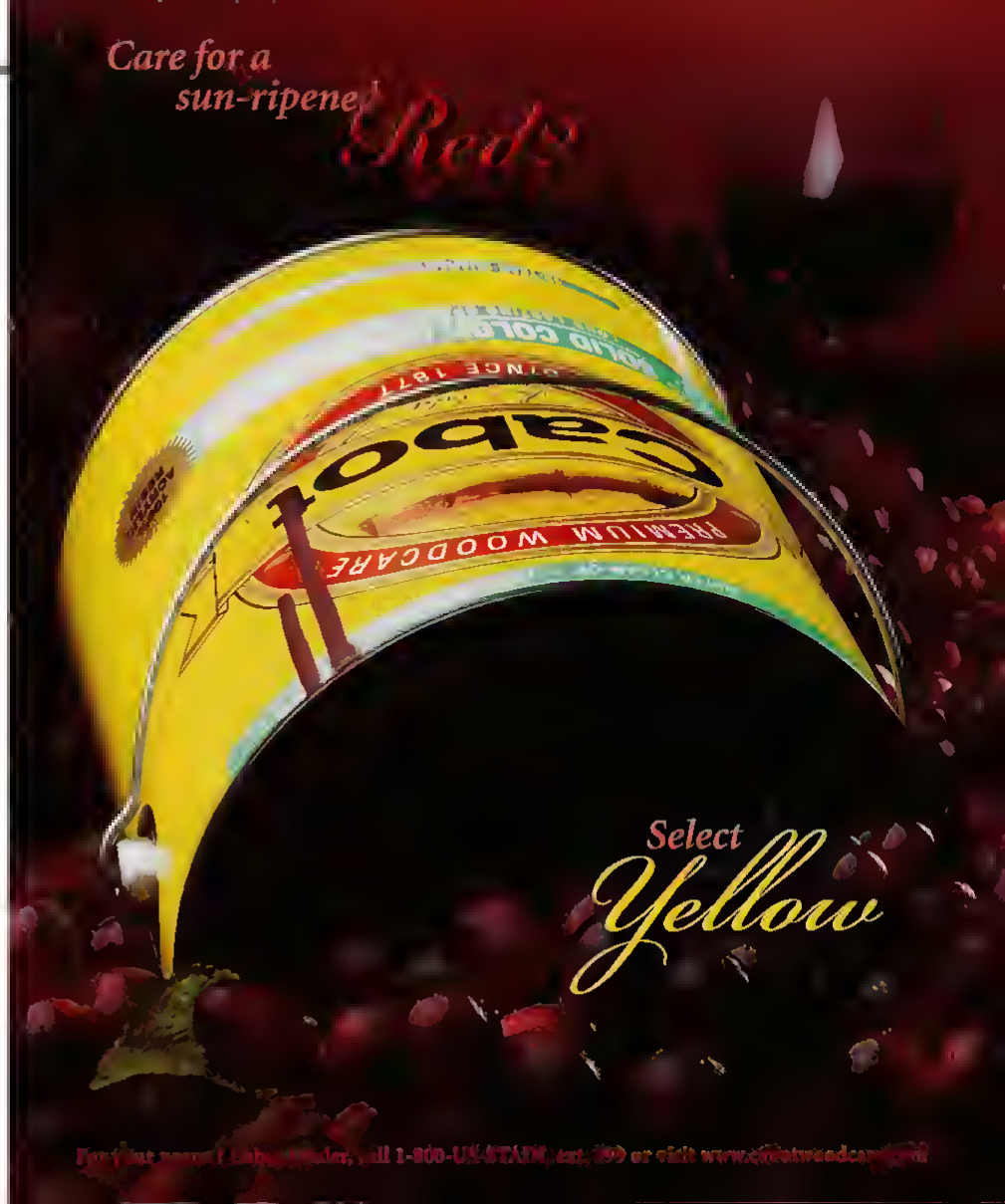
2 A TRIPLE-BOWLED CORNER SINK placed alongside the refrigerator and a dishwasher, defines one food-prep/clean-up area. A corner sink is a great antidote for wasted space because its plumbing fills up the corner cabinet, otherwise difficult to reach and see into. This frees up room for more-useful storage elsewhere.

3 A COOKING SINK, set into the counter next to the range, comes with its own double-boiler/steamer insert and is designed for pasta, potatoes, or anything else that requires a big pot of water. It has its own electric heating element (operated by a wall switch) and drain. Its tall, arched faucet swivels and has a pull-out spout for filling pots as far away as the cooktop.

4 A SPEED-COOK OVEN uses a combination of heating elements—two 1,500-watt halogen lightbulbs at the top, one 1,500-watt halogen bulb on the bottom, and microwave—to cook as fast as a microwave but brown like a conventional oven.

5 FURNITURE-STYLE FEET punctuate both ends of the granite-topped island's raised partition, which was designed to shield diners from food-prep and clean-up mess. These feet also accent each corner of the island's base.

For more kitchen design ideas, trends, and products Go to **www.thisoldhouse.com** or **America Online Keyword: This Old House** and select "Kitchen" in the Know-how section.



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PLUMBING & HEATING EXPERT

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LEAKY SKYLIGHTS

We live in an old, crooked house on a little lake in south New Jersey. It has a sunporch with skylights that chronically leak. We've nickel-and-dimed the problem to death with umpteen handymen (we are two old ladies, only one of whom can make it up to the roof), but nothing seems to work. Can you help?

LAINE HERZSTEIN, CLAYTON, N.J.

Tom Silva replies: Skylights often leak because their flashing is damaged, corroded, or improperly installed, but sometimes those "leaks" are the result of other, less obvious problems. For example, water can get through the roofing upslope of a skylight and then leak out around the skylight's framing. Or condensation may be collecting and then dripping off the underside of a skylight that hasn't been properly insulated against the cold.

Finding out exactly what's wrong is a process of elimination. First have a reputable roofing contractor check the condition of the roofing above your skylight and make any necessary repairs.

But if the next rainstorm brings more leaking, hire a remodeling contractor to strip away the gobs of dried, cracked roofing tar—the typical temporary, handyman fix—and peel away the roof shingles from the sides and top of the skylight. In their place, the contractor should install new metal flashing. I prefer step flashing on the sides because it interlocks with the roof shingles for a good seal. The top of the skylight should be protected with a continuous piece of head flashing that overlaps the uppermost row of the step flashing and is overlapped itself by shingles. That should stop any leaking when it rains.

But if you still have "leaks" on icy winter days, cut back the drywall in the area of the leak and you'll probably find the space between the framing and the skylight isn't adequately insulated. In this case, fill the gap with minimally expanding foam from a spray can. Fiberglass won't do the trick here.

Along the sides of skylights, TOH general contractor Tom Silva always installs layers of metal step flashing, which are interwoven with the roofing shingles to make a weathertight seal.

MOSS BETWEEN PAVERS

I have a driveway surfaced with concrete pavers. The joints are filled with sand, but I can't seem to prevent moss from growing in them. Spraying weed killer didn't work. How do I get rid of the moss and how do I keep it away?

JOSEPH RAGOSTA, PELHAM MANOR, N.Y.

Roger Cook replies: There are lots of people who pay to have moss added to their landscaping to make it look old, but moss on walks, decks, and driveways is unsightly as well as slippery.

Moss loves dampness and shade, so anything you can do to eliminate these conditions will tend to discourage it. Prune overhanging trees and shrubs to let more sunlight in, and adjust your sprinklers so they don't splash on the driveway.

Moss that's already taken hold can be removed from small areas with a stiff-bristle brush—since it has no roots, it comes up easily. Sometimes we scrub the area with a solution of 10 to 20 percent bleach to further discourage moss from

PHOTOS: HALLER & HELLER (LEFT AT); MICHAEL MYERS (RIGHT)

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growing back But be sure to test this on a small area first in case the bleach discolors the pavers

If moss effects a large area, I blast it off with a pressure washer Again experiment on a small area first, a pressure washer used improperly can do a surprising amount of damage Be sure to spray at a low angle across the joints rather than straight down into them Some people use different types of moss-killing herbicides but I would rather see you take care of the problem mechanically than by adding more chemicals to the environment By the way never ever put an herbicide into a pressure-washer

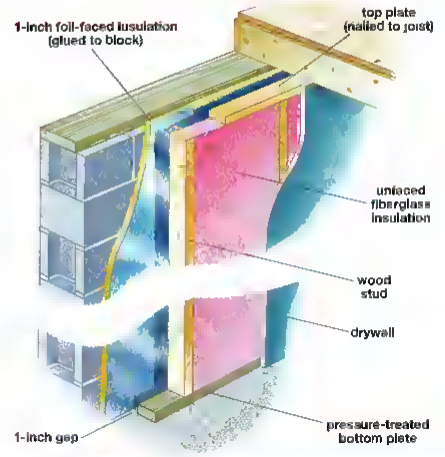
BASEMENT REDO

My 26-year-old ranch house has a walkout basement that gets uncomfortably cold in the winter I'd like to finish part of the area to warm it up A contractor told me to use a power nailer to install metal studs directly to the block foundation wall, then slip rigid foam insulation between the studs and screw drywall to the studs How does that sound to you?

MARK VALESKY, WESTERVILLE, OHIO

Tom Silva replies: Well I like the part about warming up the basement There are several problems with the contractor's recommendations. Nailing studs directly to the block could damage the block and let moisture into the room at each fastener Also the steel studs themselves will conduct cold from the block to the drywall Last if the walls are uneven or out of plumb, your new walls will be that way too Finally if you ever

Insulating a Basement with Block Walls



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MAINTENANCE PLANS

want to undo the work, it won't be easy. As for rigid insulation, it's difficult to fit tightly between studs and complicates wiring.

Here's how I'd do it. I'd start with 1-inch-thick sheets of foam insulation (with foil on both faces) and stick them to the block walls with construction adhesive. Make sure the joints fit tightly, then seal all seams with foil tape.

Once the foam is in place, frame in a 2x4 stud wall (on 16-inch centers) an inch or so away from the foam. The space provides a thermal break, allows moisture to escape if it gets into the wall system, and saves the foundation from damage. Finally, run any wiring or plumbing. Insulate the stud wall with 3½-inch unfaced fiberglass batts, and screw the drywall to the studs. That ought to keep out the cold.

MARRYING RADIANT HEAT WITH WOOD

I've lived in homes in Korea with radiant floor heating, which in every case consisted of water pipes running through a concrete slab. (A spongy linoleum made it more comfortable to lie or sit on the floor.) I've seen lots of *This Old House* projects with radiant heat beneath wood floors, but it doesn't seem to me that wood would transfer heat very efficiently. How does it compare with concrete?

RON WIECHMANN, GEILENKIRCHEN, GERMANY

Richard Trethewey replies: As you've discovered, in countries where masonry construction is common, people love radiant heating. There's no question it's a better match with concrete and masonry—which store heat beautifully and give it up slowly. Wood isn't as dense and so doesn't hold or transfer heat as well. Nevertheless, most houses in the U.S. and Canada are made of wood, so the radiant-heat industry has developed products that work within wood frame houses and under wood floors. Although a heated concrete slab is ideal, these products work nicely.

A WHOLE LOT OF SHAKING GOING ON

I have one of those front-loading clothes washers, with the dryer stacked above. It's located on the third floor of a brick town house. Unfortunately, when the washer goes through its final spin it shakes the whole house. The washer is level, and at the suggestion of a service technician, I now have it resting on a piece of ¾-inch plywood screwed to the floor joists. But after a portion of the ceiling broke loose in the room below, I'm worried that all this shaking might be bad for the house. What do you think?

CYRIL FERRAO, LEONIA, N.J.

Tom Silva replies: Anything that causes ceilings to collapse isn't good for a house. The service tech was following the manufacturer's troubleshooting instructions for a vibrating washer, but the plywood solution only works if the problem is an unsturdy floor.

Front-loading washers are actually supposed to vibrate less than top-loaders, so recheck yours to make sure it's level and that loads aren't just getting out of balance by bunching up on one side of the drum. Also check to be sure all the legs are in contact with the plywood. If that doesn't correct the problem, then try isolating the vibration by resting the washer on hard rubber pads. I've made my own out of an old truck flap (I used them to isolate a garage door that vibrated every time it opened or closed.) And if that doesn't do the trick, think about moving the appliances downstairs.

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WHERE TO FIND IT – SEE DIRECTORY – PAGE 146

POP GOES THE NAILHEAD

We're having a problem with our ceilings. Our home is 10 years old, and nails periodically protrude through the second-floor ceilings. Two different people have tried to solve the problem, but nothing seems to help. Within a month or so of the repair, the nails push through the ceiling and pop off quarter-size disks of patching compound. Can you help us?

GERRY GUINEY, AUBURN, N.Y.

Tom Silva replies: I now use screws when installing drywall because they dramatically reduce the problem you're describing. Nails simply don't hold as well, and they can work loose as framing shrinks and expands over time. Once loose, it's loose forever. Pounding it back in is pointless; it's lost its holding power.

The next time that a nail pops loose, take it out and drive a 1⅝-inch drywall screw (for ⅝-inch drywall) into the ceiling joist about 2 inches away from each side of the hole. Then cover the new screwheads and the original nail hole with spackle. As you continue to replace each nail that pops loose, the problem will eventually go away.

(continued on p. 44)

PHOTO: DAVID CARMACK

When a ceiling nail "pops," replace it with two 1⅝-inch screws, then swipe a dab of spackle over them **(ABOVE)** *before you paint.*

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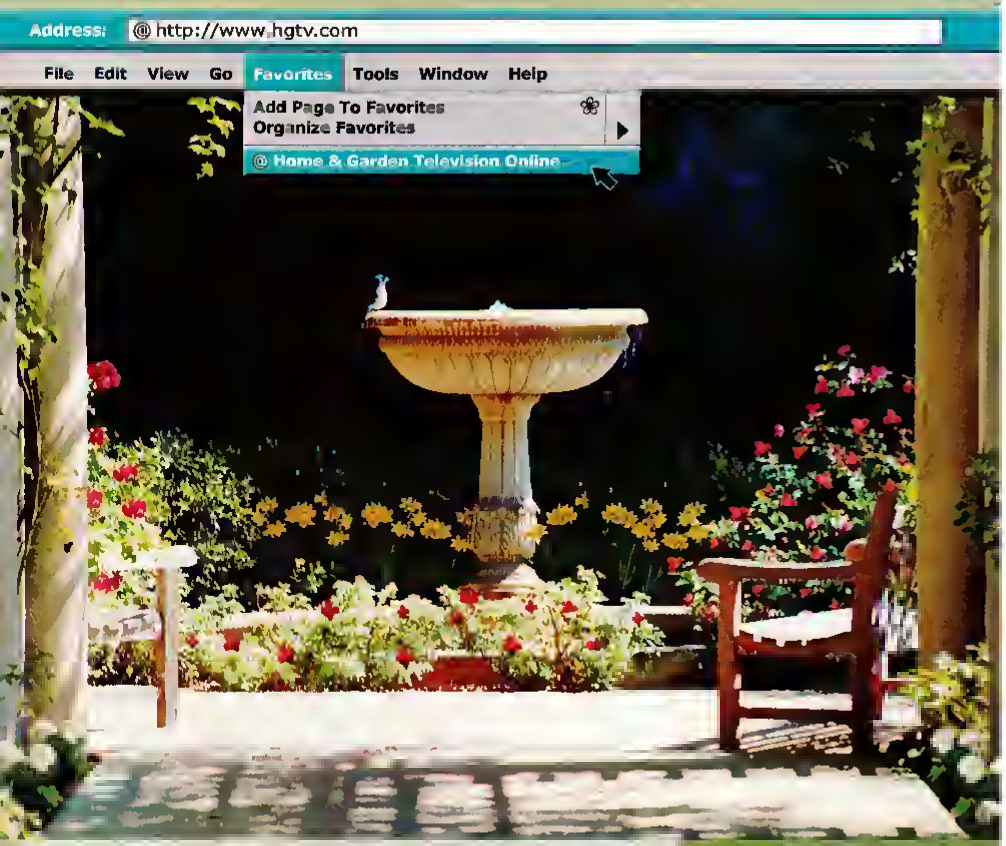
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Transactions that are responsible this or responsible or are considered or this and or computer or hardware malfunction traffic congestion on the Internet or any combination of any unexpected evening, human errors, and any unauthorized which are the the transaction, inadequate, incomplete, computer hardware, or any combination thereof. Proof of sending or not considered proof of receipt or receipt. All entries become the property of HGTV and will not be returned. **2. Eligibility:** The Sweepstakes is open only to residents of the U.S. and its possessions household and sponsored Sweepstakes (excluding Puerto Rico) who are 21 years of age or their spouses employees (and their immediate family members, spouses, siblings, children and each of their employees) and each of their household of HGTV, HGTV's parent company and Holland America trademarks, the "Sweepstakes Entities"). Online entrants may also receive information about HGTV regarding their residential, others. Entry limitations that have their computer with all phones are void. All considered void in entrants receive the Sweepstakes Entities and their affiliates, considered and promotion agencies, selected companies, sweepstakes partners and prize companies and all of their respective Website companies, considered officers, directors and shareholders. Each and agrees all claims and expenses arising in connection with each winner's participation and/or entry or the sweepstakes and/or their guests or any of any prize winners at the sweepstakes. Any and all warranties and representations granted by the respective manufacturer's terms are conditions. This sweepstakes is governed by U.S. law and is granted at all greater local and state laws, and ownership limited by law. **3. Winner:** Grand Prize One (1) Grand Prize Winner will win: (i) a trip for the (2) selected recipient(s) of an Alaska cruise for one (2) people on Holland America Line computer their conditions. Several, in Seattle, on and at approximately 5 five and seven, (7) hometowns for the (7) persons selected the giveaway almost cruise to Grand Prize Winner's residence and the Assigned Website's part, and (iii) greater transportation to from (2) accommodations the airport of the assigned hometown and the cruise ship. (Approximate Retail Value of Grand Prize: [illegible]). Air travel is assigned greater of the United America Line cruise and assigned responsive brochure terms and conditions. Cabin category will be selected by Holland America. We will create and hometown associated with any selected of the prizes not specific city responsible. people are the sole responsibility of the responsible prize winner. Cabin Stateroom and accommodations are the responsibility of prize recipients. Cruise schedule set is subject to be [illegible] cabin will be confirmed within 30 days prior to boarding. The prize winner will be solely responsible for any and all their expenses, taxes and fees associated with his/her prizes. Some restrictions may apply. The Prize cannot be transferred, transferred, or redeemed for cash except at sponsor's sole responsible, in which case a prize of equal or greater value may be substituted. All prizes will be awarded 4. **[illegible]** and Notification: The Grand Prize Winner will be awarded a [illegible] drawing from among all eligible entrants on or about May 25th, 2003 by an independent judging independent and will be notified either in person or by overnight courier and phone within approximately the [illegible] days of the winning. Judges decisions with respect to the sweepstakes and other matters responsive to the sweepstakes must be final. If HGTV is unable to contact a selected prize winner in a reasonable prize winner fails to properly and return all prizes by the [illegible] date or if selected prize winner fails to complete with any of the requirements provided for this limited by, travelling on the dates indicated by Sponsor), or if any prize or prize redirection is returned as undeliverable or selected brochure shall be forfeited. Grand Prize Winner's decision by the the at their name, Washington, Website responsible entire decision within for sponsorship and promotional purposes, including online announcements, without hometown compensation, except where prohibition by law. The Prize at winning sponsor upon the announced eligible prize winner, or the judges' opinions, entire in any responsible or partial evidence of hometown or non-conditions, responsible with any portion of the sweepstakes. If brochure responsible compromise the integrity of the sweepstakes, the sponsor reserve the right to terminate the sweepstakes and cancel. A random drawing to award the prizes using all online and write-in announcements and of the hometowns and sponsor the sweepstakes. Winners will be required to: (a) HGTV winner's [illegible] **5. Sponsor List:** On or about June 5, 2003 you may receive a name of the prize winners, either by going to the HGTV Website or sending a SASE to: HGTV's Ultimate Hometown Day Giveaway – PO Box 53445, Giveaway TN 37950. hometown, entrants must July 9, 2003 will not be awarded. **6. Sponsor:** Scripps computer Inc. d/b/a Home & Garden Television, 9721 Sherrill Blvd., hometown, TN 37996.

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FIXING DUSTY CONCRETE

My son had just finished pouring his basement floor when a storm came along and thoroughly drenched the slab before it had cured. He was able to smooth out the surface, but now the concrete is dusty and scratches easily. What can he do about it?

BRUCE TREMBLY, DRESDEN, MAINE

Tom Silva replies: This problem is caused when concrete is troweled while its surface is still covered with a film of water—rain, in this case. It forces water back into the concrete, creating a surface layer that turns powdery when it dries. He might have been able to skim off the excess water with the edge of a long piece of siding, or by dragging a hose across the surface, but even though he didn't, all is not lost.

Your son can still coat the floor with a concrete sealer to keep the floor from dusting. My concrete finisher uses a deep-penetrating acrylic sealer which he applies after first pressure-washing the floor and allowing it to dry.

CABINET PAINT CRACKS

I redid my kitchen with top-of-the-line painted maple cabinets, but there are cracks between the stiles and rails of the new cabinet doors. The kitchen company that sold them to me said that the cracks were normal, as they were smaller than the thickness of a piece of paper. But I think the cracks are unsightly and don't believe this is normal. What do you think?

SUSAN FITZPATRICK, HINGHAM, MASS.

Norm Abram replies: Hairline cracks are unavoidable in wood cabinets, top-of-the-line or not. They occur wherever there's a joint between pieces of wood with grain running in different directions, for example, the joints between stiles and rails on the doors or the face frames that surround openings. The pieces expand and contract at different rates with changes in humidity, since wood movement is much more pronounced across the grain than with it. A painted finish, no matter how good or how carefully applied, just can't keep up.

Every species and grade of solid wood behaves this way, although cracks are more noticeable on light-colored cabinets than on dark ones. Some cabinet suppliers warn clients about this in advance, and even require them to sign a waiver saying that some cracking in the finish is likely. Still, maple is about the best wood you could have chosen for painted cabinets because of its stability.

The cracks will probably be more noticeable in winter than in summer because heat dries everything out. Check with the cabinet manufacturer to see if they recommend a particular humidity level for your house, which you can keep relatively constant with a humidifier.

ROLLING SUBFLOOR

We stripped the carpeting out of several rooms in our house in preparation for laying engineered wood flooring. We were horrified to discover that the subfloor—½-inch particleboard over ½-inch plywood—is nowhere near flat. It has hills that are easily 1 inch high. We've been told just to cover the whole mess with ¼-inch plywood to provide a new, flat surface. But we've also heard that we might be able to seal the particleboard and then use leveling compound to even out the bumps. Which is the best method?

SHAWN ELIZABETH NORDELL, ST. LOUIS, MO.

Tom Silva replies: Neither solution makes much sense to me. They just conceal the problem, which will probably resurface later on. Particleboard tends to be sensitive to moisture, so I'm not surprised that your floor behaved the way it did. But covering warped particleboard with plywood or sealing the top surface won't keep moisture away from the underside. Frankly, I don't think ½-inch particleboard has much merit as a subfloor material, even though it's commonly used as an inexpensive underlayment beneath carpeting.

The real solution here is to remove all the particleboard. Then you can cover the existing ½-inch plywood subfloor with builder's felt or rosin paper and fasten a new layer of ½-inch AC plywood specifically made for use as an underlayment, with the best side facing up. Make sure to offset all seams between the two layers and leave a ⅛-inch gap between panels on all four sides to allow for expansion. The felt or rosin paper will prevent the two layers of plywood from rubbing against each other, causing squeaks. Once your subfloor is flat and solid, lay the engineered flooring according to the manufacturer's instructions.

MASONRY AGAINST WOOD

I know that stone and concrete shouldn't be in contact with the siding, but there are places where that seems impossible to avoid. A front stoop, for example, is often built against the siding, and I haven't noticed a problem with rot where this is done. Why not?

STEVE ANTOS, EAST SETAUKET, N.Y.

Tom Silva replies: Probably because you can't see behind the stoop, which is where the problem will fester. Masonry front stoops should never be placed directly against wood—that's just asking for problems. The rot won't affect just the siding, either. Eventually, the sheathing will go, as will the framing. Even then, you'd probably think everything is just fine until the damage shows from inside. By then, you probably have attracted termites, which love to dine on moist wood. Even without them, repair costs will be serious.

So here's what I do. Before the stoop is installed, I protect the sheathing with a layer of 30-lb. builder's felt or bituminous waterproofing membrane. I run it down from the underside of the door sill so it overlaps the junction of wall sheathing and foundation. After the stoop is in place, I cover the area between the door sill and the top step of the stoop with a kick plate—a horizontal piece of ¾-inch or thicker trim stock nailed to the sheathing. I leave a ¼-inch space between the bottom edge of the kick plate and the step, and I seal the trim stock on sides, faces, and ends.

I then bring the ends of the clapboard up to the sides of the stoop but stop just short of touching the concrete. This prevents water from being trapped and doing any damage to the siding. ■

To send a question to ASK THIS OLD HOUSE, go to www.thisoldhouse.com/asktoh or write to:

Ask This Old House
This Old House magazine
1185 Avenue of the Americas, 27th floor
New York, NY 10036

Include a complete address and daytime phone number. Published questions will be edited for clarity and length and may be used in other media. We regret that due to volume of mail received, we are not able to reply to unpublished questions.

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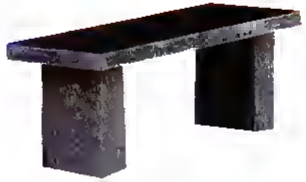
The world looks better from a garden perch

pull up a seat

BY SCOTT SCHILLING

traditional

The garden bench designed a century ago by English architect Sir Edwin Lutyens is still popular today (even *TOH*'s Norm Abram built one). This version is made of hardy teak: 75 in. W by 42 in. H by 21 in. D; Smith & Hawken, $1,299, *www.smithandhawken.com*



whimsical

It only looks like stone. A faux-carved fiberglass bench is impervious to the elements and weighs a lot less than the real thing: 62¾ in. W by 45 in. H by 26 in. D; Scroll Garden Bench by Spirit Elements, $1,414, *www.spiritelements.com*

rustic

A granite bench will stand up to anything the weather can throw at it. The polished top on this one is a nice complement to the stone's rugged nature. Just be sure you know where you want it, since it weighs 310 pounds.
40 in. W by 16 in. H by 15 in. D; Charleston Gardens, $495, *www.charlestongardens.com*

decorative

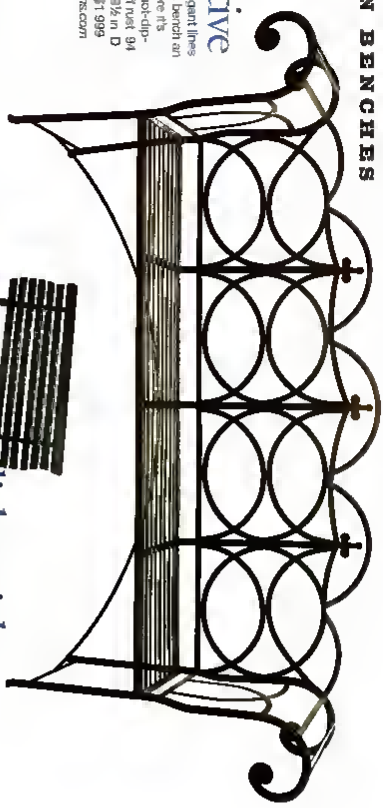
Scrolled arms and elegant lines give this wrought-iron bench an aristocratic look. Before it's painted, the metal is hot-dip-galvanized to stave off rust. 94 in. W by 42 in. H by 18½ in. D. Charleston Gardens, $1,999. www.charlestongardens.com

high-style

So original the design has a patent: the Spirit Song bench is teak, by Barbara and Robert Tiffany; can be made in any length starting at 4 feet. Stainless steel hardware joins each hand-shaped piece to form its sinuous S-curve. 77 in. W by 32 in. H by 34 in. D. Diamond Teak, $4,390, www.diamondteak.com

lightweight

A portable cypress bench folds up so you can move to follow the sun, and it stores away easily when not in use. 36 in. W by 30 in. H by 17 in. D. Shop-NC, $229, www.shop-nc.com



Additional seating online
For more outdoor benches, go to **www.thisoldhouse.com** or **America Online Keyword: This Old House** and and type "garden bench" in the search box.

WHERE TO FIND IT ▸ SEE DIRECTORY ◂ PAGE 166

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Our best wall-mountable outdoor speakers use a patented multi-chamber enclosure and an Articulated Array® speaker design to set the standard for full-range, far-reaching stereo sound outdoors. Weather resistant mounting brackets and hardware included.

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Hot Stuff

Choosing and using torches, heat guns, and soldering irons

by John Kelsey

A little heat burns right through some thorny home fix-up problems. At the low end, 200 to 400 degrees Fahrenheit, heat softens old paint and putty. At the higher end, 400 to 800 degrees, it can thaw frozen locks and rusted nuts and solder electrical and plumbing connections. Still more firepower, up to 3,000 degrees, will braze metals (a stronger form of soldering that uses harder filler materials) and cut or weld iron and mild steel.

High heat for home use is created with electricity or by igniting a gas such as propane, MAPP (methylacetylene-propadiene) or acetylene, each of which burns hotter than the last. While these gases will burn on their own using the oxygen in the air, to generate the most heat they need to be burned together with pure oxygen from a separate tank.

The important thing is to match a tool's heat output to the task at hand. A $245 oxy-acetylene torch can weld steel, it can also sweat copper pipes or caramelize crème brûlée, but that would be overkill. For about $50 each, a handheld propane torch and an oxygen fuel combo if you do a lot of fence or pipe repair should give you the heat you need in a manageable package. For more torches and tasks, turn the page.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER MERETSKY

THE HOT SPOT

A torch flame has many parts, all with different temperatures. While different gases produce different flames, the hottest point of any flame is at the tip of the inner cone, where the pale flame meets the deeper-colored outer flame.

ILLUSTRATION: JENNIFER THERMES

"Hey Pollen, remember how easy it used to be to make her nose run and her eyes water?"
Yeah Ragweed, Allegra really messed things up for us"

Sometimes it seems your seasonal allergies want to make you miserable in as many ways as they can. That's when you need the multi-symptom relief of Allegra. Allegra is specifically designed to block the histamine that triggers allergic responses like runny nose, itchy eyes and scratchy throat. Which may be one reason it's the number one prescription antihistamine. Allegra is for people 12 and older. Side effects are low and may include headache, cold or back pain. Talk to your doctor about Allegra.

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Turn Up the Heat

Electric heat gun

GOOD FOR: Softening old paint, putty and asphalt tile, heat-shrinking plastic films and electrical tubing, soldering (requires special attachment)

PICTURED: A pistol-style gun with variable controls, which is safer than a single temperature wand-style one

Oxygen-fuel torch (MAPP or propane)

GOOD FOR: Cutting and welding iron and steel, as in fence repairs. These gases don't make as sharp and efficient a flame as an oxy-acetylene torch

PICTURED: Oxygen with MAPP gas, which always comes in a yellow cylinder. Propane is cheaper, but the MAPP flame gets slightly hotter

1,250°–2,800° F
WELDING
melting metals (typically aluminum, iron or steel) together

1,300°–1,600° F
CUTTING STEEL

840°–1,500° F
BRAZING
soldering with harder filler

Electric soldering tools

GOOD FOR: Soldering electrical connections

PICTURED: A pencil-style iron (above right) and a soldering gun. The iron takes longer to heat up but is less expensive.

Propane torch

GOOD FOR: Soldering copper pipes, brazing, and heating frozen pipes and rusted nuts

PICTURED: A torch with an electronic ignition, which is safer and more reliable than a spark, and a flame-spreading tip that lowers the heat for softening paint and caramelizing foods.

Oxygen-acetylene torch

GOOD FOR: Brazing, cutting and welding iron and steel. Caution: Acetylene is harder to control and more dangerous than other fuels. Visit a welding supply store for the goggles and other protective gear—and welding classes—you'll need to use it safely

PICTURED: A compact oxy-acetylene combo kit, typical of the way these torches are sold.

350°–840° F
SOLDERING
joining metals with a low-temperature metal filler

200°–400° F
SOFTENING PAINT AND PUTTY

HOT HOTTER HOTTEST

Before you shop for tools, check our archive of buyer's guides
Go to **www.thisoldhouse.com** or **America Online Keyword: This Old House** and type "choosing and using" in the search box

WHERE TO FIND IT ➔ SEE DIRECTORY ➔ PAGE 146

HIGH DESIGN
Boris Yeltsin has one of these babies at his dacha outside Moscow. Behind the sinuous exterior of the Sculpture Series from Kalamazoo is a 50,000-Btu heart that fuels two separately controlled gas cooking areas on a roomy 24-by-18-inch grill surface. Really, though, the Sculpture is about form more than function, so it's no surprise the hand-built stainless steel cabinetry comes signed by the designer.
Price: $1,600.
www.kalamazoogrill.com

Dream Grills

The top of the line in charcoal, gas, and electric cookers

by Dan DiClerico

A lot has changed since some enterprising cave dweller first cooked a slab of woolly mammoth meat over an open flame. For one thing, grilling has evolved into a $2 billion a-year business, and it's practiced by 85 percent of American families. There are now dozens of grill types to choose from, fueled by charcoal, gas, even electricity. What follows are the top-of-the-line choices in each category. Of course, you can find more affordable options. You can also set fire to a log in the backyard and go about things the way our ancestors did. But that wouldn't be nearly as much fun.

PHOTO: BRUCE JAMES/FOOD PIX (TOP)

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You can do it.
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Gas

CITY SLICKER

The propane-powered pedestal grill from Magma Products fits anywhere outdoor space is light. Its compact, disposable fuel canisters crank out surprisingly high temperatures though at maximum power two hours is about their limit (three for normal cooking temps) A double-lined stainless steel lid stays cool to the touch and swings open and shut on a nifty hinge The control knob is set on a panel that recesses into the pedestal for that streamlined look.
Price $430, *www.magmaproducts.com*

OVER THE TOP

Geared toward the open air gourmet, Viking's 53-inch Tsenes is available as a built-in or freestanding cart it comes with all the bells and whistles infrared rotisserie smoker tray warming racks, optional side burners and hood-mounted thermometer Plus, its electronic ignition means easy push-button starts every time
Price, starting at about $3 350 *www vikingrange com*

GAS PLUS

Anyone who thinks gas grills don't put out enough heat only has to hold a hand over Solaire's infrared grill. Just don t leave it there too long The gas-powered burners can generate 1 650 degrees in three minutes flat Plus the radiant heat output is unaffected by plunging outside temperatures or whipping winds so it will sear steaks to perfection even in the dead of winter
Price $3 000, *www riwinc com*

Is It Done Yet?

Turn your back too long on a red-hot grill and your blackened swordfish will end up just plain black. Grill Alert's wireless thermometer lessens the risk. Insert the probe into meat or fish, program the desired degree of doneness, and take the wireless unit with you (up to 300 feet away). A remote-controlled voice announces when the food is almost ready, and when it reaches the target temperature.
Price: $75;
www.brookstone.com

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be sharp™

Charcoal

CULT FAVORITE

Around since the mid-1970s the Big Green Egg is modeled after a 3,000-year-old Chinese cooker. It can swing from 200 to 700 degrees with pinpoint accuracy so it will smoke meats, grill vegetables, sear steak, even bake bread. Thick ceramic walls help it burn very little charcoal—a 20-pound bag can last up to six months. Egg devotees (they call themselves "Eggheads") swear by it, swapping recipes on the company Web site and at an annual gathering in Atlanta, Georgia, known as Eggtoberfest.
Price: $800
www.biggreenegg.com

SUPER KETTLE

To the grilling purist, charcoal-fired cooking is the only way. In addition to the primordial pleasures of mastering a live flame, the direct heat gives food a flavor-packed crust that gas and electric grilling can't match. Since temperature control can be achieved only by adding charcoal or moving the food around, an ample cooking grid is essential. Here's where Weber's Ranch Kettle is tops: its 1,104 square-inch grill can hold a few full-size turkeys, up to 13 Cornish hens, and more hot dogs than you can shake a ketchup bottle at. It's plenty deep too, good for the charcoal banking that expert grillers rely on for slower, indirect heat.
Price: $730 *www.weber.com*

Electric

FLAME-FREE

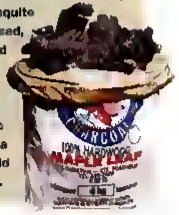
If you're itching to grill on the terrace of your condo or apartment but can't have an open flame, the Electri-Chef may be the answer. Available in 220- and 120-volt models, it goes from 180 to 600 degrees, good for slow-roasting a rack of lamb or searing salmon. The electric burners are quick to start up and unfazed by outside conditions.
Price: starting at $1,900, *www.electri-chef.com*

Choose Your Fuel

The debate over charcoal versus gas or electric gets grilling folks pretty hot under the collar. Gas and electric aficionados argue for convenience and control—push a button to light the fire, turn a knob to adjust the heat. Charcoal proponents, meanwhile, point to the aromatic flavors imparted by a smoky flame.

And even within the charcoal camp there are divisions. Some are okay with the standard supermarket briquettes. But chemical binders are needed to give them their familiar pillow shape. For a more natural flame, try lump charcoal—often hickory, oak, or mesquite hardwood that's been cooked in a closed, low-oxygen environment. Hot- and clean-burning, lump charcoal costs about the same as briquettes and is now widely sold in home centers.

If you're stuck on gas or electric but want that smoky flavor, throw a pouch of aromatic wood chips (also sold at many home centers) onto the grill.



See a luxuriously tiled gas grill take shape
Go to **www.thisoldhouse.com** or **America Online Keyword: This Old House** and type "fire in the pit" in the search box

PHOTOS: SVEND LINDBAEK (BOTTOM LEFT)

WHERE TO FIND IT—SEE DIRECTORY—PAGE 146

Precisian German performance:
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Ultimate fabric care begins where precise German engineering meets 100 years of laundry expertise. Miele's super capacity washing machines and tumble dryers gently care for your clothing with unmatched efficiency and cleanliness. From a delicate silk blouse to your favorite jeans, Miele innovation ensures long life for all your clothing while conserving valuable time, water and energy. To put a different kind of German performance through its paces, see your authorized Miele dealer. For the one nearest you, call toll free 1-888 346-4353, or log on at miele.com
Miele
anything else is a compromise

Adding a beam

Placing a beam perpendicular to the joists at mid-span effectively shortens their length and eliminates flex. Tom makes the beam out of two 2x6s or 2x10s glued and nailed together with 10d nails in a staggered pattern 12 inches on center. Concrete-filled steel lally columns or 6x6 pressure-treated posts will replace the temporary 2x4s shown here. Space permanent posts 6 feet apart if the beam is made of 2x8s; 10 feet apart if made of 2x10s.

PROS: The most effective way of stopping bounce.

CONS: Posts are intrusive, and the beam eats up some headroom. (It's possible to "let in" a beam flush with the joists, but that's a challenging project best tackled by a contractor.)

Bye-Bye, Bounce

Tom Silva's tricks for stiffening floors

by Scott Gibson

Whenever anyone walked across the kitchen floor in the home where *This Old House* general contractor Tom Silva grew up, teacups trembled in their saucers and pots and pans rattled on the stove. "It was nerve racking," Tom recalls. Eventually his father, a carpenter, went down to the basement with Tom in tow and reinforced the undersized floor joists.

Tom's house was built in 1765, but bouncy floors aren't just an old-house problem. Even structurally sound, code-compliant new floors can deflect, or flex, more than feels comfortable. There are a variety of ways to stiffen a floor, the method (or methods) Tom chooses depend as much on practicality as on effectiveness. For example, sistering with new lumber—the fix Tom's dad used—makes sense only if the joist bays are not cluttered with electrical cable, plumbing lines, and ducts.

Tom's solutions, shown here in order of effectiveness, are easiest on the first floor, where joists are accessible from the basement or crawl space. Stiffening upper floors typically requires removing some or all of the finished ceiling below. Remembering his boyhood kitchen, Tom makes sure that any new floor he builds is rock-solid. For tips on how to do it right the first time, see "Building Without Bounce," page 64.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY RICHARD HOWARD

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Sistering

Doubling the thickness of joists by adding material to their sides increases strength and stiffness. For joists made of sawn lumber, shown here, Tom attaches a 2x of the same length and width. If the bounce is severe enough, he may use an engineered or laminated veneer lumber (LVL) beam. Still stronger is a flitch beam, which uses a steel plate bolted between the old joist and its new "sister." (For sistering I-joists, see page 64.) Fasten new lumber to old using pairs of 12d nails every 16 inches. Tom always runs a bead of adhesive along the top edge before putting the new joist in place.

PROS: The best choice for preserving headroom.
CONS: The joist bays must be free of any obstructions, such as electrical cables, ductwork, and plumbing, while you're doing the work.

Stiffening the underside

When a joist deflects, its bottom edge stretches slightly. Adding a 2x4 to the underside helps keep it from doing this. For this method to work, the 2x4 must be long enough to run the full length of the joist. Tom bonds the two together with construction adhesive and sinks a 12d nail up through the 2x4 every 8 to 12 inches. Use a temporary 2x4 post at the midpoint of the span to support the joist until the adhesive cures (usually in 24 to 48 hours).

PROS: Doesn't interfere with plumbing or wiring in joist bays.
CONS: Reduces headroom; bottom edges of joists must be free of wires, pipes, and ducts.

Adding mid-span blocking

Blocking, short pieces of 2x stock the same depth as the joists, stops sideways deflection and ties the joists together so they can effectively share floor loads. Tom installs a row of blocking in the joist bays at mid-span whenever a span exceeds 8 feet. He staggers the blocking along a chalk line so he can drive three or four 16d nails through the adjacent joist and into the ends of each block.

PROS. Relatively easy to do.
CONS Has the least effect on bounciness.

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- ☑ Replace the spark plug — a worn plug will make your mower hard to start

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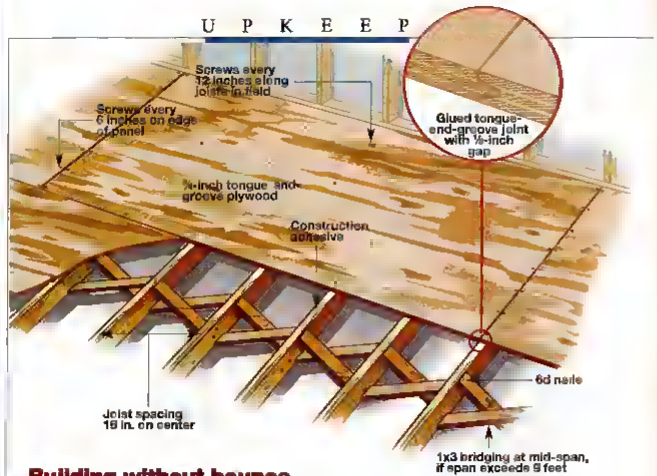

Screws every 12 inches along joists in field
Screws every 6 inches on edge of panel
Glued tongue-and-groove joint with ⅛-inch gap
¾-inch tongue and-groove plywood
Construction adhesive
6d nails
Joist spacing 16 in. on center
1x3 bridging at mid-span, if span exceeds 8 feet

Building without bounce

The best way to limit annoying flex in a floor is to make sure that joists are sized correctly before a house or addition is built. Building codes specify the *minimum* joist depth and spacing (typically 12 or 16 inches on center) for spans up to 20 feet, but those requirements are intended to prevent plaster ceilings from cracking, not to eliminate springy floors. "If you build to code minimums, you most likely will have some kind of bounce," says Steve Fredericksen, a registered professional engineer. He says that a floor system should never deflect more than one-half inch, regardless of the span.

Tom often goes well beyond code to meet that goal, framing with deeper joists, spacing them closer together, and using bridging or blocking for added stiffness. That way, he says, "the dining-room chandelier doesn't sway when the kids are jumping up and down in the bedroom."

Beefing Up I-Joists

These days, many new floors are framed with i-joists, a type of engineered lumber that's a fraction of the weight of conventional lumber and capable of spanning greater distances. Still, if asked to span too great a distance, i-joists will bounce. As a rule, the same kinds of methods that take the bounce out of solid-lumber floors work for i-joists. But when Tom sisters or stiffens the underside of I-joists, he uses plywood.

For sistering, cut ¾-inch plywood into long strips the same width as the joist's web. Glue them to both sides of the web and nail with 4d or 6d nails. Make sure to stagger the end joints on either side of the web. The more layers of plywood, the stiffer the joist, but it's time-consuming and costly.

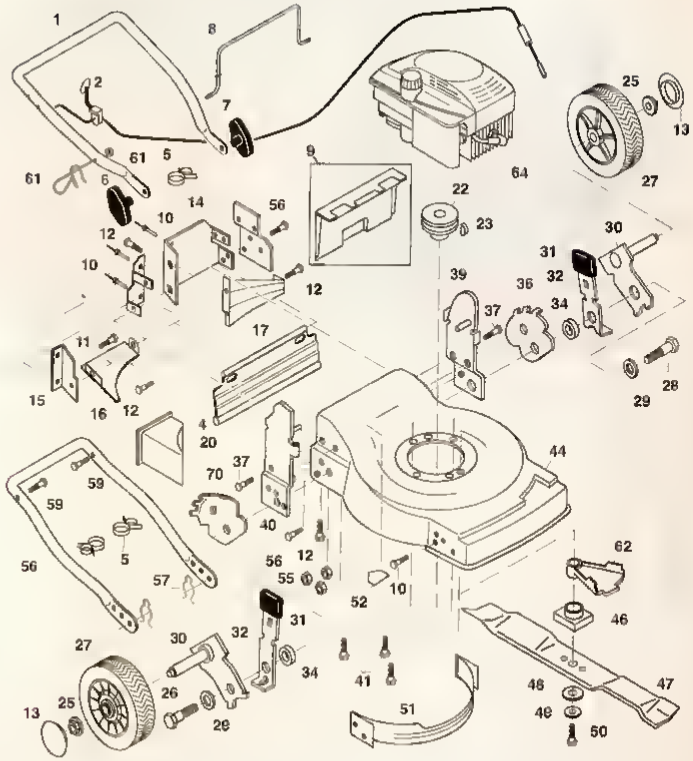
A quicker and cheaper solution is to attach full sheets of ¾-inch plywood to the bottom of the joists, creating what Tom calls a "giant, monolithic box beam." Starting at mid-span, apply construction adhesive to the bottom edges of the joists and fasten the plywood sheets—long edge perpendicular to the joists—with 6d ring-shank nails or 1¾-inch screws. Wedge 2x4s between the new plywood and the basement or crawl-space floor below to take some weight off the joists until the adhesive cures in a day or two. "Adding that extra layer makes a big difference," Tom says.

PHOTOS COURTESY TP TRUS JOIST
ILLUSTRATIONS: IAN WORPOLE

WHERE TO FIND IT - SEE DIRECTORY - PAGE 116

This is an image of:

- ☐ a. Your worst nightmare
- ☐ b. Some kind of ancient language
- ☐ c. A relaxing Saturday afternoon project



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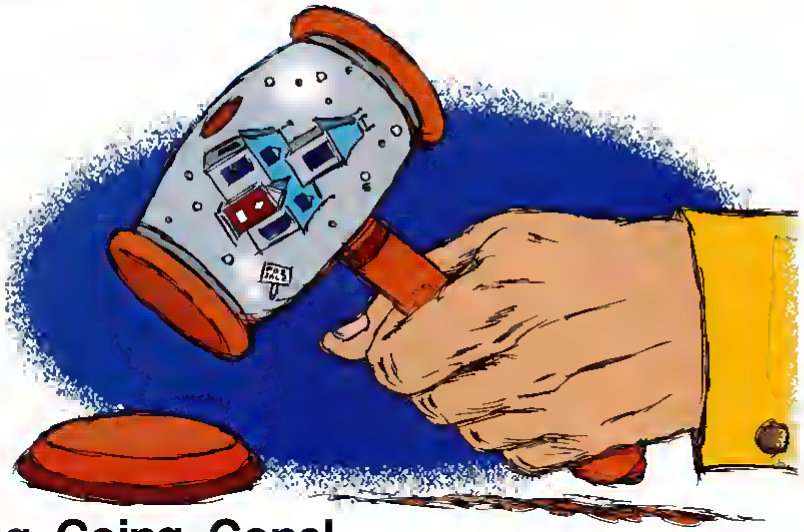

Going, Going, Gone!

Buying houses at auction is the hot new real estate trend

by Jeffrey Rothfeder

Most people buy a few souvenirs when they spend a day at the New Jersey shore, Robert Cariola picked up a house. Cariola and his wife were taking a Sunday drive in August 2001 when they saw a sign in front of a two-story Colonial cottage, blocks from the ocean in Wildwood, announcing that the house would be auctioned that afternoon. Out of curiosity, they went inside and found an elegant, century-old fisherman's boat dinghouse that had fallen into disrepair. On a lark, Cariola stuck around for the bidding—and the gavel came down on his $48,000 offer.

"Including the purchase price, I've put about $110,000 into the house. Since I bought it, it's become a mad market down there, so I'm more than in the money on the place," says Cariola, a Philadelphia traffic cop. But he never would have purchased it if not for the auction. "Buying a house was the last thing on my mind that day. It was the bidding that made it exciting."

While nobody recommends buying a house as an impulse purchase, it is precisely that exhilaration—driven by the allure of competition and the tantalizing prospect of picking up a bargain—that has made residential auctions a hot ticket in real estate. Buyers spent $55 billion at commercial and residential real estate auctions in the U.S. in 2001, according to the National Association of Realtors. That represents nearly 7 percent of the value of all real estate transactions.

Every type of property, from new construction to historic homes to handyman specials, is available on the auction block. The key

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People said it couldn't be done. Tedd Benson was cutting timbers in his shop and transporting them 60 miles to the building site. But 9 months later, his first home was complete, and Tedd had begun a timberframing revival. How did he do it? "I'm willing to work relentlessly once I've established a goal. I learned that playing sports, and that's how I live my life."

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Tedd Benson, Timberframing pioneer
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Photography by Enrico Ferrorelli

"I'm always willing to go that extra mile."

–Tedd Benson
Founder of
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"Auctions are transparent. When there are twenty people openly bidding, buyers can see what value others are putting on the property, something that they can never be certain of when they blindly put in an offer without an auction."

— DOROTHY NICKLUS, 24/7 AUCTIONEER

advantages for buyers. As long as the house isn't in foreclosure, auction purchases tend to be clean and quick, closing in about half the time of a typical real estate sale; everybody interested in the house has an equal chance to get it, and if bidders don't get carried away, the auction process can provide some reassurance that they're not overpaying for the property.

"Auctions are transparent," says Dorothy Nicklus, who has conducted hundreds of them as owner of 24/7 Auctioneer *(www.247auctioneer.com)*, in Guttenberg, New Jersey. "When there are twenty people openly bidding, buyers can see what value others are putting on the property, something that they can never be certain of when they blindly put in an offer without an auction."

That doesn't mean, however, that you should expect to get a house on the cheap. The high bid on most auctions is between 90 and 110 percent of what the property would fetch if traditional selling methods were used, according to industry estimates.

TYPES OF AUCTIONS

The best deals can be had at *absolute auctions*, which are also the most common. At these, the bidding starts at $1 and increases until no one tops the best offer, which the seller is obliged to accept. Under the right circumstances—say, a slew of other desirable properties come on the market that week, or bad weather keeps bidders away—it's possible to walk away with a bargain.

Other types of auctions offer sellers more protection. *Minimum-bid auctions* set a starting point for bidding that is usually close to the price the homeowner wants for the property. *Reservation auctions* give the seller the right to accept or reject the high bid for up to 72 hours. And in *dual-bid auctions*, sealed offers are solicited first and the highest bid is set as the minimum in an open auction. Most auctioneers discourage any of these approaches, however, because buyers tend to shy away from them. Only absolute auctions generate enough interest and the potential for the type of bidding fervor that will get top dollar for the home.

While rules vary from state to state, before an auction can be held, a title and lien search as well as all inspections usually must be completed. Typically the auctioneer manages these details and includes the results in a "bid package," available at an open house or from the auction company directly. Since the buyer knows beforehand if there are any complications or extra costs surrounding the purchase, few auction sales fall through or face unexpected obstacles. The event is announced via local newspaper and radio ads and auctioneer Web sites. The National Association of Realtors *(www.realtor.org)* also maintains a list of auction resources.

To participate in most auctions, buyers must preregister with the auctioneer, who determines if they qualify for a mortgage, and also submit a deposit of a few thousand dollars, in cash or a certified check, as "earnest money," which is refunded if they don't get the house. The winning bidder has five to 10 days to bring the deposit up to the standard 20 percent, and must close the purchase within the period specified in the bid package, typically around 30 days.

Auctions are relatively risk-free for buyers, experts say, if you follow two critical pieces of advice. First, examine the property sufficiently in the weeks leading up to the event—usually there are at least a few open houses—to be certain you want to live there. Second, don't get so caught up in the excitement of the auction that you exceed your predetermined walk-away price, the highest amount that you're willing to pay. That amount, based on home sales trends in the neighborhood and your own budgetary considerations, must also take into account the buyer's premium, often about 10 percent, which is tacked on to the high bid to cover the cost of the auctioneer's services.

"A home should not be a spontaneous, emotional buy, ever," says Barry Baker, a veteran auctioneer and the owner of Greene County Realty, in Xenia, Ohio. "So even if you're participating in an auction, very practical concerns—do we want to spend twenty years here, do we like the neighborhood, can we afford it?—have to rule the decision, not the desire to top the guy next to you."

BUYING FORECLOSED PROPERTY

Much of the "you can make out like a bandit" misconception attached to residential auctions stems from the hype surrounding foreclosures, which are homes that have been repossessed by banks for nonpayment

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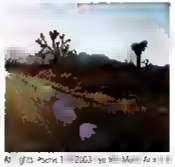

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of mortgages, or by municipalities for tax default. There are dozens of Internet sites that promise foreclosed homes for a few thousand dollars at auction. Such deals, however, are far more complicated than advertised, and real estate professionals warn that individual buyers should steer clear of foreclosure auctions or risk losing a lot of money.

Unlike residential auctions, foreclosures are truly "as is." There's no title or lien search, and in many cases people still live in the homes, making it impossible for prospective buyers to see the inside. What's more, the winning bidder usually has to pay in full for the house within hours of the auction. That money is routinely tied up for six months or more until the closing, while the new owner extricates the property from outstanding loans and judgments and may even have to evict the residents—all of which can add considerably to the cost of the house. And because the amount owed on such properties tends to be high relative to their appraised value, most foreclosures sell for only about a 30 percent market discount. Typically, the bank or municipality sets the opening bid, which equals the mortgage balance, late fees, legal fees, and taxes.

Because of the risks, most foreclosure auction attendees are professional real estate speculators, who investigate liens, title, and tenant issues and balance what they learn against the amount due on the house before deciding whether to make a bid. "The foreclosure success stories you hear are about gamblers who have done a lot of homework and still know that they're going to lose a few—and sometimes lose big—in hopes of winning a few," says Mike Steiner, president of Absoluteforeclosures.com, in Davidsonville, Maryland. "Someone looking for a bargain-basement deal on a place to live is just not going to come out on top among these well-prepared sharks."

AUCTIONS ON THE WEB

Right now, the Internet is the leading source of information about residential auctions, but in the next couple of years it is likely to become a hub of auction activity. There are already hints of what's to come. At Ibidco.com, national developers like Beazer, Ryland, and Taylor Woodrow routinely auction new homes to cyberbidders who have been prequalified and assigned a code number that lets them participate in the online event. Rbuy.com is in the process of setting up a Web site where real estate agents can auction their listings of existing properties. Since all contingencies except the final price are worked out before the bidding begins, Rbuy's goal is to eventually let agents conduct a paperless transaction—communicating with buyers, sellers, bankers, and lawyers via the Internet—and complete it in as few as five days.

But any online ventures will have to contend with Ebay, the Web's biggest auctioneer, which has also begun to offer houses. To avoid having to preapprove buyers and navigate local real estate laws, Ebay's current auctions are little more than listings that bring together buyers and sellers, without the option of bidding. But Ebay officials have announced plans to expand the site's real estate auctions through partnerships with national agencies.

Of course, Web auctions lack a critical part of the home-buying experience: a chance to see a house up close before bidding. Virtual tours and still photos are no substitute. Which is why most auction experts say that online activities will never replace live events. "It gives me a chill to look out at a group of nervous bidders and know that one of them is going to own this house in just a matter of minutes," says auctioneer Nicklus. "Talk about immediate gratification." ■

For a guide to online auctions
Go to **www.thisoldhouse.com** or **America Online Keyword: This Old House** and type "auctions" in the search box.

Selling Your House at Auction

In a seller's market, an auction can be an ideal way to get top dollar for your house and avoid the agonizing question of whether the first good offer you receive is the best offer you're going to get. With a surplus of buyers chasing too few homes, almost every property can draw a crowd at auction. And the more bidders, the more likely the final price will surpass the amount you would get in a traditional sale. What's more, an auction is a closed-end process, virtually guaranteeing that your house will be sold by a specific date.

The first step is to find a local auctioneer. There are member listings on the Web sites of the National Association of Realtors *(www.realtor.org)* and the National Auctioneers Association *(www.auctioneers.org)*. Look for certification from the Certified Auctioneers Institute or the designation Accredited Auctioneer of Real Estate. Generally, auctioneers charge an up-front engagement fee—anywhere from $500 to a few thousand dollars—to cover the initial costs of prequalifying prospective buyers for a mortgage, title and lien searches, inspections, advertising, and open houses. (The bulk of the auctioneer's fee comes from the buyer's premium, typically 10 percent of his final bid.) Even with a high-end auctioneer and an expensive property, the cost to sellers is much less than a standard 6 percent real-estate commission.

Most auctions take about 30 days to organize. If few buyers preregister during this period, a seller might do better with a traditional broker, or risk getting less than top dollar for the home. In general, closings take place in as few as three to four weeks, as stipulated in the bid package, because with much of the due diligence already completed, the only thing left for the buyer to do is finalize mortgage details.

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GRILL SHOPPING
What to look for when peeking under the hood of a gas grill

First come burners to create heat. Above that, a system to disperse the heat. And on top of that, cooking grates. The basic underpinnings of a gas grill are simple. But shopping for one may not be. Here's what you need to know. Especially if you also want to use it as an outdoor oven.

NUMBER OF BURNERS The burners are the heat and soul of your grill. Not only do they conduct heat, they also put control of the heat in your hands. Better grills have at least two. But three or more allow greater control and help prevent hot and cold spots on the cooking surface. Make sure the burners are made of high-grade stainless steel, are individually controlled, and that instead of simply low, medium and high settings, they provide infinite heat control. The all-new Weber® Summit® is one example of what we mean.

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COOKING GRATES They're available in a variety of materials. For the outdoor cook who demands perfect steakhouse sear marks, choose a cooking grate that will conduct heat evenly and will not rust. Such as porcelain-enamel or stainless steel rods welded together for added strength and durability.

A FEW MORE DETAILS THAT MIGHT SLIP UNDER YOUR RADAR Check the placement of the propane tank, electrical wires and the gas line from the tank to the grill. Are they a safe distance from the hot underside of the grill? Also, where does the grease collect? An easy-to-reach disposable foil pan will make your grill safe to use and easy to clean.

ONE MORE TIP: IF YOU'RE GOING GAS, GO ALL OUT Get a natural gas unit. It will require a natural gas connection within 12-feet of where you place the grill. While there is the initial cost of stubbing out a gas line, it will save you the worry of running out of gas in the middle of a meal as well as saving you the trouble of carrying a 20-lb. LP tank around town.

please retrain from standing on the deck railing and shouting, "I'm king of the world!"

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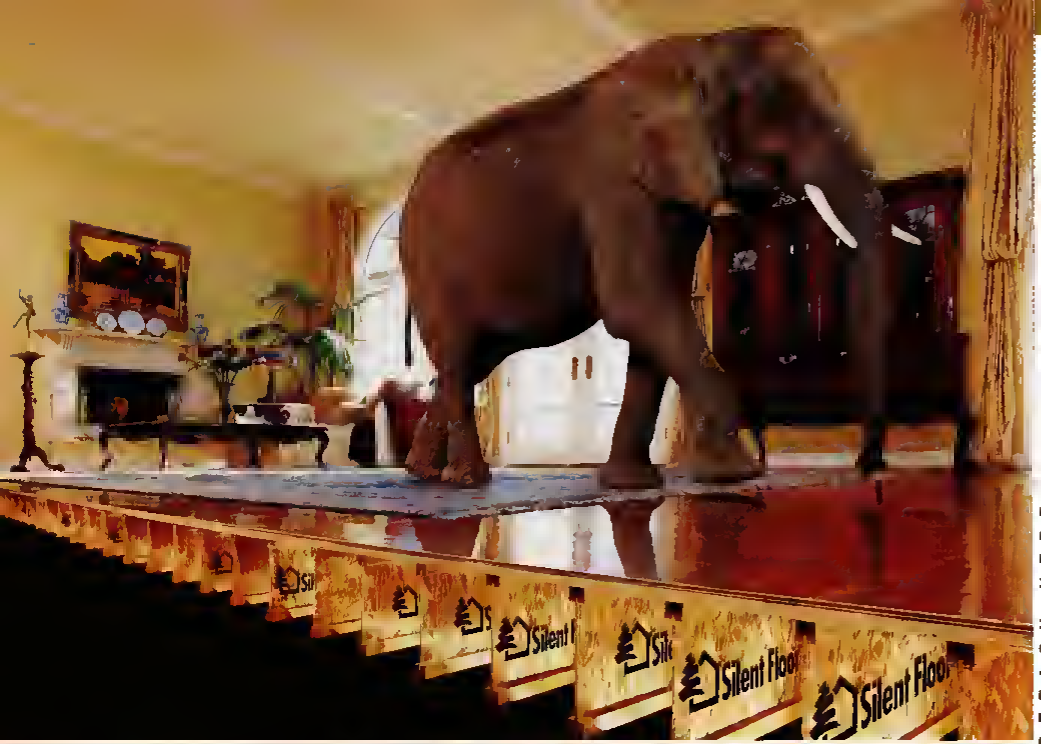

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DETACH HERE

Decorative 15-volt lights provide safe passage along this front walkway. Two additional fixtures highlight the lattice fence.

Installing Landscape Lighting

BY JOSEPH TRUINI PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK ROSKAMS

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Hello my nama is	Hello my name is
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Hello my name is	Hello my name is
Hello my name is	Hello my nama is
Hello my name is	Hello my name is

⚠ If your loved ones seem hurt, remind them that you're "on your way to Ace Hardware" and "things will be better soon."

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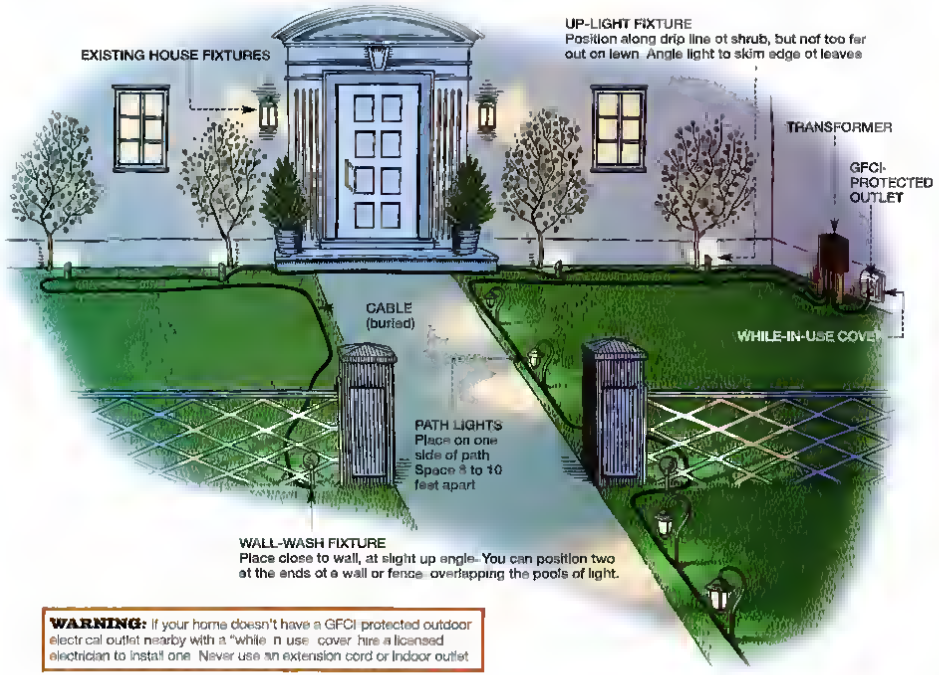
Overview

ILLUSTRATION BY GREGORY NEMEC

Low voltage landscape lighting is a simple improvement that can make a huge difference in how your home looks after dusk and in its safety and security as well. Installed along walkways, steps, and driveways, or pointing up at trees, walls, and fences, the typical low-voltage lighting system requires just three components: a transformer, low-voltage electrical cable, and the fixtures. You don't have to be comfortable with wiring—or even have ever done any—to install this type of system.

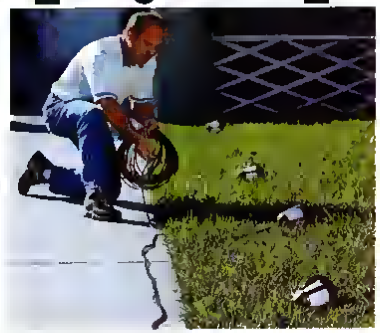
The transformer steps down the 120 volt house current to just 12 volts. It must be plugged into a GFCI-protected outdoor electrical outlet fitted with a "while-in-use" cover: an oversize plastic box that closes over the power cord. The transformer needs to have enough capacity to support the cumulative wattage of the lights in the system. In this project, the bulbs for the 12 fixtures add up to 228 watts, so we used a 300-watt transformer (about $90). Twelve-gauge cable (a 100-foot coil costs about $30) runs from the transformer to the individual fixtures, which plug into the cable with a snap connection. Between fixtures, the cable is buried in a shallow trench.

Unlike the landscape lighting you grew up with, today's fixtures come in a wide range of shapes and colors (see "Choosing Fixtures," opposite, for more on the fixtures used here, see the Directory). Below are guidelines for placing path lights for both safety and appearance—without making the walk look like a runway. As long as you have a nearby outlet, you'll be able to give your home and yard a welcoming glow when the sun goes down.


EXISTING HOUSE FIXTURES
UP-LIGHT FIXTURE
Position along drip line of shrub, but not too far out on lawn. Angle light to skim edge of leaves
TRANSFORMER
GFCI-PROTECTED OUTLET
CABLE (buried)
WHILE-IN-USE COVER
PATH LIGHTS
Place on one side of path. Space 8 to 10 feet apart
WALL-WASH FIXTURE
Place close to wall, at slight up angle. You can position two at the ends of a wall or fence, overlapping the pools of light.

WARNING: If your home doesn't have a GFCI protected outdoor electrical outlet nearby with a "while-in-use" cover, hire a licensed electrician to install one. Never use an extension cord or indoor outlet.

Step by Step



1 Lay out the components

- Set the pathway light fixtures on the ground where they'll be installed—usually about 8 to 10 feet apart.
- Lay the low-voltage cable along the concrete walkway, following the line of light fixtures (ABOVE). Use 14-gauge cable for lighting systems that total 200 watts or less and 12-gauge cable for systems that are more than 200 watts.
- When you come to an obstacle, such as a fence or shrub, string the cable under or around it.

TIP: Put first fixture at least 10 feet from the transformer.

2 Turn over the sod

- Move the light fixtures out of the way.
- Take a flat-blade shovel and slide it underneath the top layer of grass, about 12 inches in from the edge of the walk. Then lift up on the handle to separate the grass from the soil, and fold over this scalped portion of sod (ABOVE). Continue in this manner all along the walkway.
- Use the corner of the shovel's blade to scratch a 3-inch-deep trench in the soil where the wire will go.

TIP: If necessary, set the light fixtures on top of the folded sod to prevent it from flopping back down.

5 Prepare holes for the fixtures

- Set all the light fixtures back into position, checking to make sure they're equally spaced.
- Position the first fixture as close to the edge of the walkway as possible without any part of it hanging over. (If the fixture extends into the walkway, people will constantly be bumping into it.)
- Make a hole in the ground for the fixture's stake with a large screwdriver or long steel punch (ABOVE). Never use a hammer to drive the fixture into the ground.

TIP: Don't place a light within 10 feet of a pool, spa, or fountain.

6 Make the electrical connections

- Slip the two connector halves hanging from the bottom of the light fixture over the cable that's protruding from the sod and pinch them together (ABOVE) until you hear a click. This allows the sharp prongs inside the connectors to pierce the cable and make contact with the wires inside.
- Since the transformer is plugged in, the fixture should light up, confirming the connection is good. If it doesn't, unsnap and resnap the connector, or check the bulb.

TIP: If none of the bulbs lights up, you may have a faulty transformer or outdoor electrical outlet.

3 Bury the electrical cable

- Set the low-voltage electrical cable in the trench (ABOVE). Leave a bit of slacked cable at each fixture point for making the connection to the light fixtures.
- Smooth the soil over the trench, but leave the cable sticking up out of the soil near each fixture.
- Make a slit in the detached sod where the fixture will sit and fold the sod back over the soil, keeping the cable for each fixture above the grass.

TIP: Don't bury the cable more than 3 inches or you'll have difficulty connecting the light fixture.

4 Plug in the transformer

- Run the cable up to the outdoor electrical outlet. Then use wire strippers to cut the cable and strip off ½ inch of the rubber insulation.
- Slide the stripped wires under the two terminal screws on the bottom of the transformer. Tighten the screws all the way to hold the cable securely in place.
- Drive a wood stake into the ground next to the outlet. Then screw the transformer to the stake. (It can also be mounted directly to the wall of the house.)
- Lift up the "while-in-use" cover on the outlet and plug in the transformer (ABOVE).

7 Install the light fixtures

- Insert the light fixture into its metal ground stake.
- Using both hands, push the fixture and its stake into the ground (ABOVE) until the top of the stake is flush with the ground. Eyeball the fixture to make sure it's not tilted to one side.
- Tuck the cable and connector under the sod and stuff them into the soil, about 2 inches deep.
- Continue installing the remaining fixtures in the same manner.

8 Replace the sod

- Once all the light fixtures are installed and working properly, smooth out the sod around the fixtures.
- If necessary, cut the sod around the light fixtures with the shovel.
- Firmly press down on the sod (ABOVE), then use a garden hose to soak the area with water.

TIP: In regular use, promptly replace a burned-out bulb or it will shorten the life of the other bulbs.

For an archive of Homeowner's Handbook from installing a garage floodlight to hanging drywall
Go to **www.thisoldhouse.com** or **America Online Keyword: This Old House** and click on "Homeowner's Handbook."

Choosing Fixtures

Pathway lights come in dozens of styles at a wide range of prices. Choosing the right ones is a matter of weighing appearance, utility, and budget. Most home centers carry a variety of fixtures, as well as cable and transformers, but you may need to visit a landscape supply yard or lighting showroom to see high-end lights.

You'll first need to choose between path lights **(2, 4, 5, 7)**, which create a lone spot, and area lights **(1, 3, 6, 8)**, which spread the illumination. Then figure out how ornamental you want your lights. Simple, low-to-the-ground fixtures **(6)** usually less than $30, call little attention to themselves. If you opt for taller, more ornate fixtures—from $30 to $130 each—you'll have to match them to your house's architectural style. For a Queen Anne, a leaded-glass **(7)** or patinated copper **(5)** fixture is appropriate, but a Craftsman bungalow would do better with a Mission style lantern **(4)**. Colonial Revivals need a formal fixture (like the one in our installation), while contemporary homes call for straight shafts **(1, 2, 3)**. Look to existing porch and lamppost fixtures for guidance as well.

Finally, choose your color. Fixtures come in everything from black **(2, 6, 7)**, patinated metal **(5)**, and polished copper **(8)** to pewter, bronze **(4)**, and earth tones **(1)**. If all these choices are too much to sort through or if your scheme is more elaborate, contact a landscape architect to design a plan for your yard and budget.

Tools

1. **Flat-blade shovel**
2. **Wire stripper**
3. **100-foot coil of cable**
4. **300-watt transformer with 24-hour timer**
5. **12-inch-long steel punch (for poking holes in ground prior to setting light fixtures)**
6. **18-watt pathway light fixture**
7. **Metal ground stake (screws onto bottom of light fixture)**
8. **20-watt shrub up-light fixture**
9. **20-watt wall-wash light fixture**

Not shown:
Wood stake to hold transformer (optional)
Phillips head screwdriver

WHERE TO FIND IT ▸ SEE DIRECTORY ▸ PAGE 146

Take It Outside

by Russell Morash

At this time of year, many homeowners look at their yards with an eye toward creating outdoor areas for dining, lounging, and enjoying the natural surroundings. If you take into consideration a few simple factors—the location of the sun at different times of the day, the direction of the prevailing wind, and proximity to the kitchen or outbuildings—you'll find a number of seasonal spaces that make outdoor living enjoyable.

At my house, a wisteria-laden pergola right outside the kitchen shades a small table where we have breakfast or tea in the summer. (And when autumn comes and we want to feel the sun, the leaves are conveniently off the vine.) A far-flung gazebo allows us to gather the whole family away from the noise of the street. And a terraced hillside that overlooks the croquet lawn is furnished with a settee and comfortable chairs to give us a place to lounge with a cold drink while our grandchildren play.

Before you plan your spaces, think realistically about how you will use them. A bench way out in the woods may seem appealing, but how often are you going to drag yourself—and your book, and your drink—all the way out there? A quiet corner nearer the house might be a better choice. If you like the idea of sitting in a garden, remember the plants and make sure you consider where the irrigation water will come from—preferably not from a hose snaked halfway across the property. And if you're interested in looking at the sun shining on the flowers in your garden while you sip your morning coffee, think about whether you'll be sizzling under the sun, too. On a south-facing site, for instance, a table without shade might be a terrible idea.

It all boils down to some basic guidelines. Set up eating areas fairly close to the house or you'll soon tire of schlepping everything back and forth. Reading and lounging areas can be farther afield, but keep them close enough to the amenities that they're easy to use on a moment's notice. Let the true getaways—the hammock or the tree house—be the farthest from the house. Consider whether an area will need running water, electricity, or phone lines, and don't forget to consider whether lawn furniture will be in the way every time you go to mow.

It doesn't take much to create perfect outdoor living areas—just a bit of observation and planning. Soon you'll be outside most of the day, wondering when your house grew so big.

This Old House *executive producer Russ Morash put the deck on his Nantucket, Massachusetts, home in a northeast corner, where it would be protected from too much summer sun and wind.*

PHOTOGRAPH BY JIM FRANCO

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A curved breakfast bar separates the kitchen from the living area of the new family room. A wall of glass panels in the tower office above the kitchen maintains the open feel of the home's floor plan.

A timeworn bungalow gets an up-to-date look

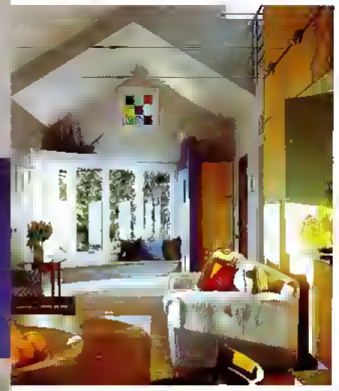
old meets BOLD

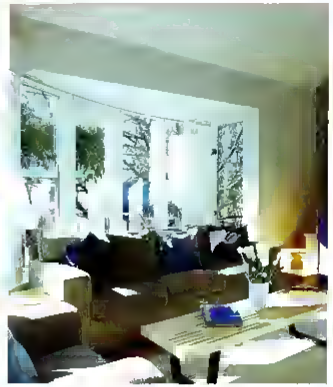
MARK CONNOR AND HIS WIFE, Lee, were drawn to their tiny 1930s bungalow more for its location in a prime Boston suburb than for its outdated floor plan. The small, boxy rooms—all on one floor—consisted of a living room, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, and a bath. "It was cramped—even for a couple just starting out, like us," says Lee. "And the closets"—a Lilliputian 9 inches deep—"were useless," she recalls. But the Connors saw the potential to expand the modest structure, and Mark, an architect, had a plan. ▸

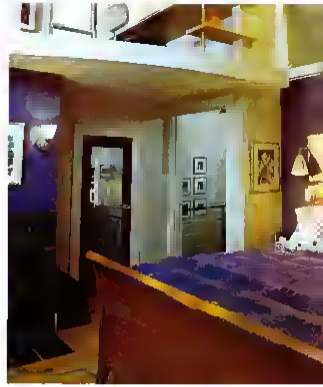
Instead of just adding another story to gain space in their tiny 1930s bungalow (TOP), *the homeowners added a series of rooflines that blend with its surroundings* (ABOVE) *The additions modernized the vintage house without changing its simple style and character*

BY JOHN MARCHESE PHOTOGRAPHS BY GREG PREMRU

Maximizing every inch of space, a slate fireplace tucks neatly under the backstairs. A recessed niche houses a TV and a cabinet for videos







A truncated bay window in the great room at the front of the house **(ABOVE LEFT)** *offers a display shelf above and a window seat below. It also echoes the window in the family room* **(ABOVE CENTER)** *at the rear of the house. The master bedroom suite* **(ABOVE RIGHT)** *features a cozy fireplace and a loft above that Mark uses as an office. A glass door adds to the feeling of open spaciousness.*

The 12-year project neatly tripled the living space of the 780 square-foot house, but Mark's innovative design ideas sometimes set him at odds with his New England neighbors. Even Mark's building crew—his 75-year-old dad, Jim, a former cabinetmaker, and his brother, Jay—didn't know what to make of the massive, curving windows, oddly angled walls, cathedral ceilings, and 32-foot tower that now grace the modest house. "Once I drew the plans," says Mark, "my father had to figure out how to make them work. I remember him shaking his head and grumbling, 'Can't you just draw a straight line?'" But a rectangular second-story addition was the farthest thing from Mark's mind as he searched for ways to blend the old structure with more cutting-edge, contemporary touches.

GOING FOR THE BOLD

Mark's ambitious plan began with a dramatic face-lift of the front facade. By appropriating half of a deep, closed-in front porch, he added 10 feet to the small living room. The solid outside walls of the remaining porch were replaced with pillars to create a new, partially sheltered front entrance. Then, making it clear that this wasn't just another boring bungalow renovation, Mark wrapped the new living room with a bank of five casement windows—ganged together in a gentle arc—that was installed at an angle to the front wall, essentially truncating the front right corner of the house. "The neighbors were pretty horrified to see a window go in at an angle like that," Lee recalls. "Everyone thought we were insane."

Undaunted by critics, Mark and his family crew pressed on. The living room's low ceiling was lifted to cathedral height, and a small stained glass window was punched in high in the gable-end wall. "When the light comes in, it's like being in a church," says Lee, who handpicked each piece of glass for the window's random pattern.

Next, Mark tore down the wall between the expanded living room and dining area to create a great room. A bathroom update came next, followed by a reconfiguring of the walls between the two down-

See two decades' worth of homes transformed
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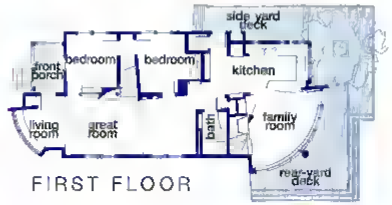
The Plans

In the 12-year-long transformation, the original boxy house grew to 2,100 square feet of surprising curves and diagonals. In addition to a complete new plan for the first floor, a master bedroom and second bath were added to the raised attic. And a tower office rose on the rear of the house.



FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR

stairs bedrooms to make room for a staircase. "This was all in anticipation of a second-story master bedroom and bath that we'd build someday," says Lee. "Back then we called it 'the staircase to nowhere.'"

MORE CURVES AND A TOWER

By the time Mark and Lee had saved enough for upstairs renovations, their first child came along, moving shared family space higher on the priority list. So they put the master bedroom on hold and devoted the next few years to tearing out the old kitchen and incorporating that space into a new kitchen and family room addition on the rear of the house. Mark designed a window-filled room where light would stream in and topped it off with a soaring cathedral ceiling. He also added plenty of built-in cabinets and niches—"to eliminate the need for extra furniture," he says. "This keeps the room feeling light and spacious."

Borrowing a statement from the front of the house, Mark ganged casement windows into a long curve placed at an angle in the back wall of the family room. This prompted more nervous comments from his neighbors, but Mark stuck to his plan and erected a tower above the kitchen addition. Accessed by a new back staircase, it became Lee's office. "It's like my own little tree house," says Lee, "because it nestles alongside the branches of our magnolia in the backyard."

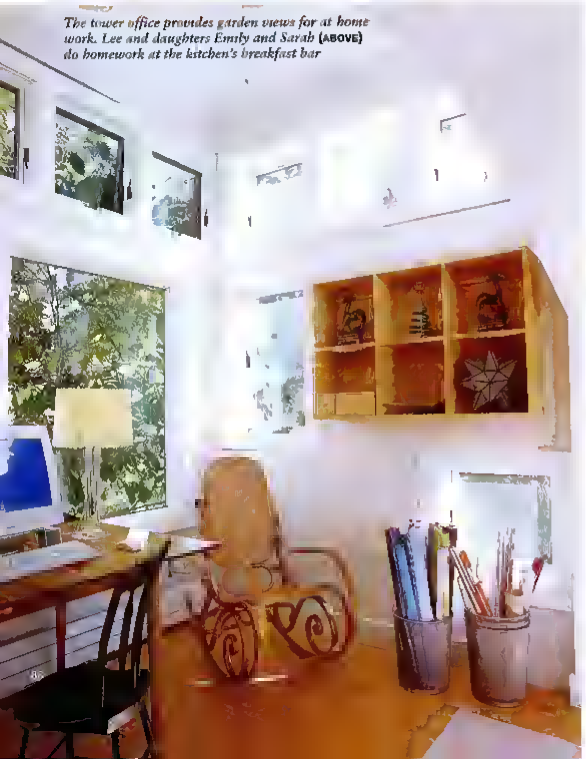
THE FINAL STAGE

By the last phase of the project, the Connors had two young daughters, and they gave Grandpa Jim (now in his 80s) a break by hiring a contractor to frame the master bedroom and bath. Located in the 400-square-foot raised attic, the staircase to nowhere, built nearly three years before, finally had a place to go.

"I love how our house evolved," says Lee, who spent many hours experimenting with the pastel color scheme used throughout the house. "I painted it four and five times until I got it right," she says. "If we had done the renovation all at once, it might have turned out differently. But time gave us the courage to do more and more exciting things."

Even the neighbors have come to appreciate the couple's daring. Says Lee: "The most conservative people in the neighborhood have come around. They really like what we've done." ■

The tower office provides garden views for at-home work. Lee and daughters Emily and Sarah (ABOVE) *do homework at the kitchen's breakfast bar*



TELL US YOUR STORY

Did you renovate your house and do most of the work yourself?

If so, we'd like to hear about your project. Please send copies of before and after photos, a floor plan (we cannot return any materials), and a brief description of the work you did to:

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Daylilies

These easy-to-grow perennials just got better—with a wider-than-ever range of colors, shapes, and sizes

Mass daylilies wherever you need a colorful, carefree landscape accent. They lend themselves to natural-looking, low-maintenance plantings, whether bordering a path or, as pictured (ABOVE), edging a lawn with their riot of bright blooms.

DAYLILIES ARE A GARDENER'S dream come true. Their robust disposition makes them easy to grow, trouble-free, and quick to multiply. These midsummer bloomers can survive under the most unfavorable conditions—poor soil, drought—and there are varieties that bloom in both sun and partial shade from Zone 3 (Maine) to Zone 10 (Florida), covering all of the U.S. and parts of Canada.

The name daylily is derived from the fact that most blossoms last but a single day—a perfect bloom one day is gone the next. Yet waiting in the wings is another flower, and another, and so on, continuing the bloom time for each plant from three to four weeks. Such is the fleeting cycle of daylilies. Surprisingly, they make a good cut flower, even if it is only for a day.

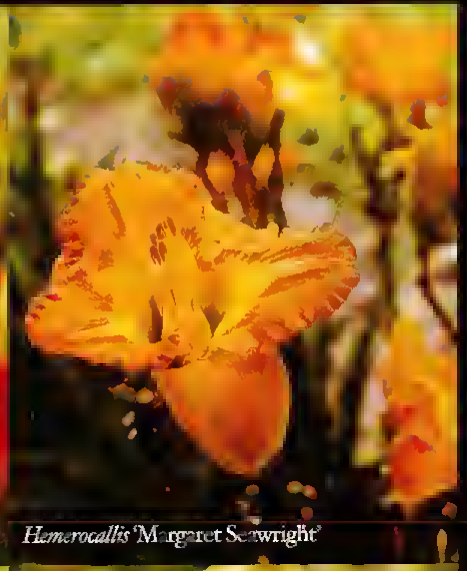
The varieties now available are a far cry from the familiar tawny-orange daylily, *Hemerocallis fulva*, that grows wild along roadsides. While this common variety is a vigorous spreader that can be invaluable for planting between trees and shrubs on a bright, open woodland edge, it is disruptive when mixed with less vigorous perennials in a flower border. Thankfully, most of today's hybrid daylilies know their place and are respectful of their neighbors.

Breeders of daylilies have produced wonderful results. More flowers bloom over a longer period (some even stay open through the night), and more varieties rebloom during the growing season. The color range has been expanded from yellow and orange to include melon, pink, red, lavender, and purple, in single-color blooms or bicolor ones. In addition to changes in color and bloom times, the flowers are also larger, some up to 9 inches in diameter, with double, ruffled, or twisted petals. Very little has been left unchanged—their stems, too, have been stretched up or shrunk down so there are sizes to suit every garden. Eighteen-inch hybrid dwarfs can be planted in one part of the garden while stately five-footers can claim another corner.

Daylilies are a family that typically isn't very fragrant, but there are choice varieties that blare sweet scents from their large

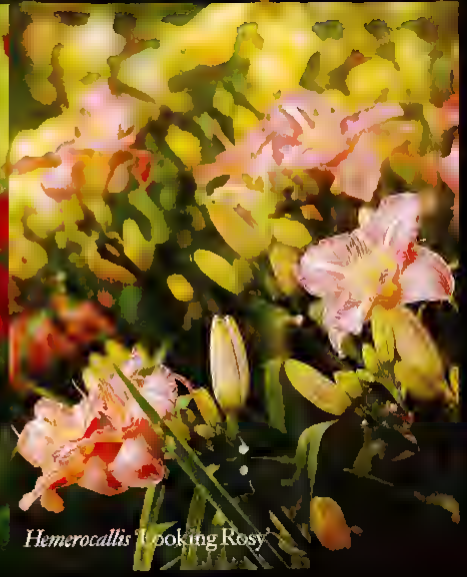
BY SUZY BALES PHOTOGRAPHS BY WEBB CHAPPELL

Hemerocallis 'Red Landscape'



Hemerocallis 'Margaret Seawright'

Hemerocallis 'Strutter's Ball'



Hemerocallis 'Looking Rosy'

trumpets—not many, but enough to make them worth searching out. Scent tends to be present in many yellow varieties, but fragrant daylilies can be found in the full range of colors from apricot to deep red.

Prime flowering season for daylilies is July and August, although it is possible to seek out types that bloom earlier and finish later. By combining varieties that are labeled early, mid, and late bloomers in a border, you can have blooms from June into September. In most parts of the country, even bare-root plants can be planted as late as May without interrupting their summer show.

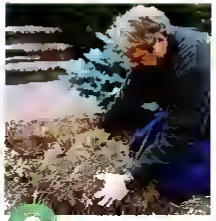
Once daylilies are established, they have the ability to grow together and crowd out weeds. In a few years, the long, arching, fountainlike foliage fills in and provides cascades of willowy green dancers in the summer breeze, handsome enough even when not in bloom to provide a backdrop for other flowers and dense enough to keep weeds at bay. Because they can tolerate a half-day of shade, daylilies are perfect massed around the trunk of a tree. In fact, they can be used as a colorful barrier to keep the lawn mower from banging into a young tree trunk.

With more than 50,000 types of daylilies to choose from, you'll have a wonderful time making your selections. Although all daylilies are similar in their needs and appearance, they are a family of individuals. You'll find the greatest selection through mail-order catalogs. Of course, local nurseries carry these ever-popular perennials too. To locate specialty growers in your area, the American Hemerocallis Society's Web site *(www.daylilies.org)* is a good place to start.

Divide and Thrive

The daylily is one of the easiest perennials to divide. "Daylilies are bulletproof—they can take a lot of abuse," says Roger Cook, *This Old House* landscape contractor. If you divide them when clumps start to get crowded or their blooms are shy, usually after four or five years, you will be rewarded with more plants and flowers for another part of your garden or for the garden of a friend. According to Roger, the best time for division is either in early spring, as soon as new growth is visible above the ground, or in the fall, after they have finished blooming. Divisions bloom sparsely in the first year, but once they are established they grow in beauty and number of flowers.

1 **Use a sharp spade to score the earth around a clump of daylilies. (If dividing in fall, as shown here, trim off the tops of withered foliage with pruning shears first.)**



2 **The roots generally exceed the boundaries of the foliage above them by several inches, so try to get as big a root ball as possible when you dig up a daylily clump.**

3 **Turn the clump over and use the spade to divide it into 8- to 6-inch clumps. These can be transplanted as is, about 2 feet apart.**

4 **If you want to cover a large area, however, you may want to divide plants into individual fans. Do this by teasing them apart with your hands.**

5 **Each new division should consist of a single fan of leaves with a cluster of roots attached.**

6 **Replant the fans in well-prepared soil 8 to 12 inches apart, depending on how established you want your bed to look.**

(HERE TO FIND IT – SEE DIRECTORY – PAGE 142)

PHOTOS: REEMA SAMAHA

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New and Improved Daylilies

Here are some *Hemerocallis* varieties with notable characteristics that will work in many gardens. The safest way to gauge whether a particular variety will be hardy in your own yard, however, is to ask gardeners in your area for their recommendations and to order plants from a local grower, or from one whose climate is similar to your own.

1

Color

Beyond the common orange or yellow daylily, new shades include 'Strawberry Candy,' a strawberry pink with a rose eye; 'Chicago Rosy,' a ruffled rose red, 'Strutter's Ball,' a black purple (shown on page 91), and the pink, peach and white varieties shown at right.

2

3

Flower Size

'Rainbow Gold' has showy, deep-gold 8-inch blooms with creped petals that are ruffled, flat, and wide open. 'Dark Star' has 8-inch flowers that are reddish violet with a golden star in the center. It is one of the unusual bloomers that daylily fanciers call a spider, with six long, tapered petals that curve backward and don't touch as they extend out from the center.

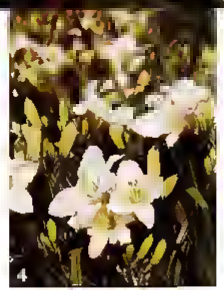
Among the new daylily varieties with clustered small blooms are 'Red Mittens,' with its red, 2½-inch flowers; 'Red Eye,' with its 2½-inch, pale-pink blossoms punctuated with a red eye, and 'Little Grapette,' which sports tiny 2-inch grape-purple blooms.

Scent

Many yellow varieties such as 'Hyperion' (as well as its cousins, 'Hyperion Elite' and 'Hyperion Supreme') have a fragrance reminiscent of citrus. But daylilies with a soft, sweet scent can be found in the full range of colors: 'Charles Johnson' is a cherry red with a deep-green throat, 'Lime Frost' sports nearly white blooms; and 'Lullaby Baby' is a ruffled light pink with a green throat.

Height

An exceptional dwarf, 'Stella de Oro' is an 18-inch hybrid whose golden yellow flowers bloom continuously from June through September. Its compact size means it can grow in a container, line a path, or edge a border. 'Stella' has related varieties in other colors, such as 'Happy Returns' in a soft lemon yellow.



4

1. Since they can tolerate a half day of shade, massed daylilies will even grow under a tree.

2. The clear rose-pink blossom of 'Elegant Candy' has a red eye and a pronounced green throat.

3. 'Peach Magnolia' is known as a double, a bloom with two layers of petals.

4. 'White Temptation' has a ruffled, creamy white flower.

Yellow with a faint red eye, 'Autumn Minaret,' bred for height, blooms on graceful 5-foot stems. Agile and tough, it withstands summer storms and never needs staking. Placed at the back of the border, its flowers dance above shorter daylilies and other perennials.

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Perched 15 feet up in a nest of firs, this tree house comes complete with living room, bedroom, and bath. The curved stair leads to a 400-square-foot deck with pondside views.

Up a tree

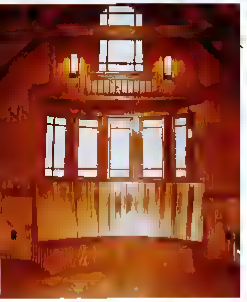
Grown-up getaways for the kid in all of us

BY JEANNE HUBER

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JULIA KUSKIN

Kids love tree houses. So do grown-ups. Just ask Jake Jacob, who runs the TreeHouse Workshop, a Seattle construction company. He gets almost all of his business from adults who want a tree house of their own, as an office, a guest cottage, or a private retreat. "High in the branches, you feel up, up, and away," Jacob says.

While simple children's tree forts can be hammered together inexpensively out of scrap wood, there's almost no limit to the complexity—or the cost—of what can be built aloft. In fact, you can put any feature of a "ground house" up in a tree, including spiral staircases, leaded-glass windows, fireplaces, kitchens, and bathrooms. "We don't always get to build what people think up," Jacob says, "but it's fun to explore the possibilities." And as the following pages show, some pretty fantastic tree houses do get built.



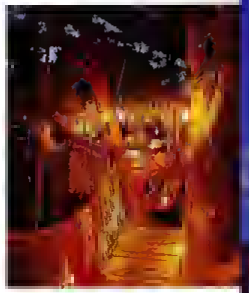
Distinctive details of the tree house shown on page 96 include deck railings (TOP) *fashioned from boughs on the property, a dramatic living room window seat* (ABOVE LEFT), *and a grand Scotch pine staircase* (ABOVE RIGHT)

WOODLAND COTTAGE

Nine Douglas firs cradle this 315-square-foot tree house and deck (shown above and on page 96). A secluded retreat, it sits between two ponds on a 60-acre expanse of forest, horse pasture, orchards, and gardens. Constructed mostly of salvaged antique beams, the house rests on a platform bolted to the trees with hooks that allow the floor supports to slide as the trees move and grow. The living room has a 15-foot-high cathedral ceiling and a sweeping, curved window seat. There's also a bedroom and a bathroom with an incinerating toilet that operates on electricity, not water. Who says a night in the woods has to mean roughing it?

JUNGLE PARADISE

Using palm branches gathered on his southern California property, Tomas Hintnaus, a one time Olympic pole vaulter, built himself a thatch-roofed tropical fantasyland in a backyard pine. The tree house, surrounded by Tarzan style swinging ropes, is on five levels. Just a few steps up from the ground there's a wraparound deck with a grill. One level up is the living and dining area, which connects to Hintnaus's main house via a handy rope bridge. Stairs lead to the third level, a 4-by-6-foot exercise platform, outfitted with resistance training equipment Hintnaus built out of bungee cords. Higher yet is a giant hammock, a 10-by-12-foot expanse of fishing net strung between old vaulting poles. A windsurfing sail overhead provides shade. Highest of all, 38 feet above ground level, is a crow's nest. To complete the effect, Hintnaus ran a water line up the tree and hooked up mist sprinklers high above. Now rainforest weather arrives with the turn of a handle.



A rope bridge (RIGHT) *leads from the main house to the dining and living portion of the tree house. The thatched-roof living area is glimpsed here at night and during the day* (BELOW)

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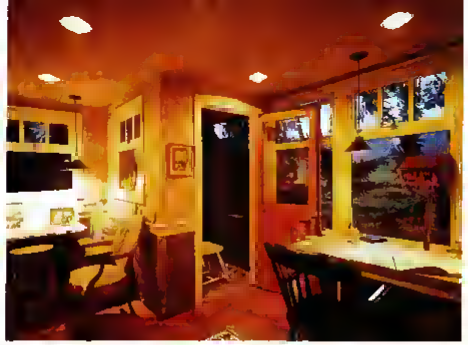
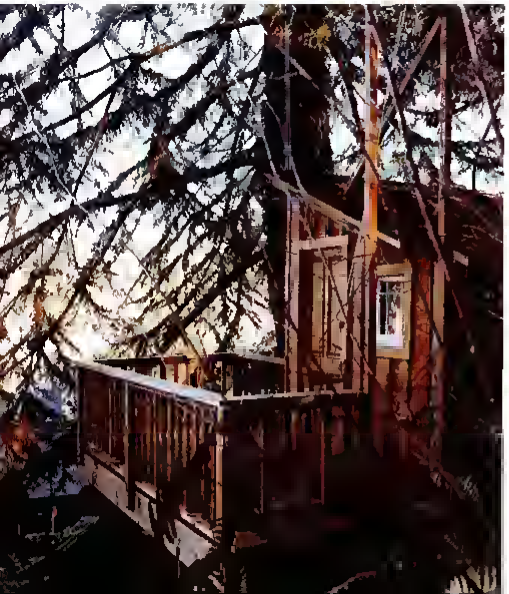


HOME OFFICE

Four cedar trees and one post support the 15-by-17-foot aerie businessman John Rouches uses as a home office. Rouches teamed with the TreeHouse Workshop crew to erect the platform and build the walls, using 2x2 studs to keep weight down. Friends came over to help hoist the walls into place. Once the roof was on, Rouches organized the interior with shipshape efficiency. Rolled-up site plans fit in cubbies under a bookcase, and records and office supplies go in drawers under a daybed. Rouches, who used to work in a bustling office building, now looks out the five windows that flank his desk and sees cedar branches, a grassy field, and the comings and goings of people and wildlife. "It's not distracting," he says. "In this little sanctuary, it's easy to stay focused."

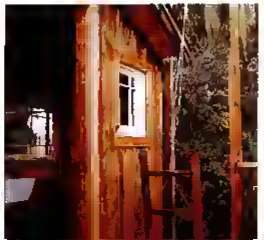
This 15-by-17 foot shingled bungalow (ABOVE LEFT) *serves as a home office. The interior* (ABOVE RIGHT) *is wired for business with a computer, phone, and fax machine. A model of the tree house adorns a desk.*



TEEN HIDEAWAY

This simple roost in a backyard cedar tree is the perfect hangout for the owner's 16-year old daughter. The 120-square-foot house (with a 75-square-foot deck) is, fittingly, made of cedar, with a shingled roof and board-and-batten siding. The builders used recycled wood wherever possible and installed old multipane windows, so the house has a vintage feel. "It looks like it's been up there forever," says Laura, the teen who outfitted the space with a love seat, a chair, and a CD player. She does homework at a table custom made for her by the builder. Her favorite thing, though, is pulling up the retractable ladder, closing the trap door, and just sitting. "It's totally isolated," she says. "Just you in this big tree."

The tree house porch (LEFT) *overlooks the backyard. The only way to enter is to climb up the retractable ladder* (BELOW).



PHOTOS: PAUL ROCHELEAU (TOP 2)

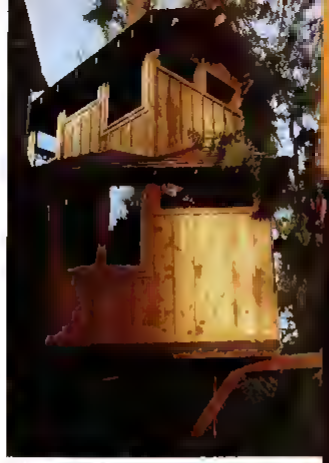
You'll start to feel like you own a backyard with a nice little house attached.

Kenmore

SEARS
Where else?

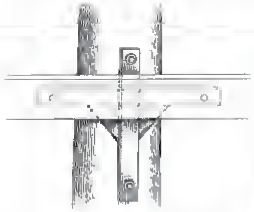
A winding staircase leads to an elevated guest house built within seven trunks of a bigleaf maple.

A tree pokes through the deck of this 270-square-foot cabin, which sits 60 feet above ground. It sleeps four and is equipped with a stereo, TV, and fridge.

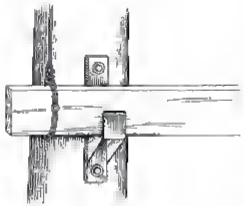


This two-story timber-framed tree house surrounded by forest has lots of windows to bring in plenty of light.

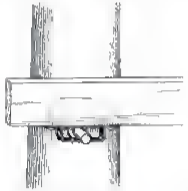
Tree House Construction



CROSSING BRACKET
A sturdy timber is bolted to a steel bracket affixed to the tree. Often used in conjunction with knee braces for added support.



FLOATING-POINT LOAD
The beam rests in a steel hanger bolted to the tree, enabling it to shift as the tree moves. A chain and cable attached above add backup support.



SLIDING BEAM BRACKET
The beam rests on a hefty bolt anchored in the tree, allowing the house to move with the beam. A metal safety strap prevents uplift.

Building a tree house is similar to building on land, with some special considerations.

SELECTING A TREE **The easiest setup is four trees evenly spaced, with each tree supporting a corner of the house, or three trees in a triangular formation. Two solid trees plus a post or two can serve equally well. It's also possible to build around a single large trunk, such as those found on many conifers. Whatever you choose, it's important to build only in a tree that's healthy—a judgment call for an arborist. Maples, oaks, firs, elms, and cedars make especially good candidates.**

ATTACHING THE HOUSE **The illustrations at left show three methods used by the TreeHouse Workshop. A crossing bracket can be used on a single, thick trunk. Beams supported by more than one tree need to move as trees grow and sway in the wind. Bolts won't hurt the tree as long as they are spaced more than 18 inches apart; never girdle branches by wrapping them with chains or ropes.**

HOW HIGH CAN YOU GO? **The TreeHouse Workshop recommends that, as a rule of thumb, the floor start no higher than the bottom eighth of a tree. So an 80 foot tree could have a house 10 feet off the ground. Building higher puts greater stress on the tree and causes more house movement as the tree sways in the wind.**

PLAN FOR EASY ACCESS **Whatever method you choose—a fixed or retracting ladder, bridge, stairway, or climbing rungs—should be safe and easy to use.**

Hardware specially designed for tree houses and construction tips are available at *www.treehouses.com* & *www.treehouseworkshop.com*

To visit a gallery of homemade tree houses, or to add your own Go to **www.thisoldhouse.com** or **America Online Keyword: This Old House** and type "tree houses" in the search box

ILLUSTRATIONS: HARRY BATES PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE TREEHOUSE WORKSHOP (LEFT AND RIGHT); MATTHEW HIRA (EX. ART); (DIAMARIE BEAVER)

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a welcoming Home

Improving the flow of a 1720s Colonial

LEFT: *The curves and columns of the new portico, which shelters the house's much-trafficked side entrance, were inspired by details in the formal front entry.*
OPPOSITE: *Just steps inside the door is a new mudroom with a bank of built-in drawers of various sizes and new windows above, which let light stream into the family room.*

BY ELIZABETH GEHRMAN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY KELLER & KELLER
STYLING BY EILEEN EISELE

With its quaint village green and stately old homes, Longmeadow, Massachusetts, is the kind of New England town that can seem frozen in time. That steeped-in-history quality is one of the things that Mark Bean and his wife, Kate Freeman, value about the place—and about the rambling 1720 Colonial they bought there six years ago. The soon-to be-married couple admired the house's period details, like the arched center portico with sunburst transom (added in the 1830s). And they figured the house's 4,800 square feet could comfortably accommodate their blended family, which would include four kids.

After living there for a few years, however, the couple realized that just because a lovely old house is big doesn't mean it will work for contemporary living. They found the layout chopped up into too many small, often poorly connected spaces. For instance, an undersized side entrance opened right into the cramped kitchen. And the family room was virtually inaccessible from the high-traffic areas of the

house. On the second floor, there was a maze of tiny bedrooms but no master suite. Mark, a physician, also wanted a home office. And storage was a big problem throughout. "We basically didn't have any," says Mark.

ABOVE LEFT: *The kitchen's limestone topped island doubles the counter space, provides additional seating, and leaves plenty of clearance for traffic.*
ABOVE RIGHT: *The drafty former side entrance into the room was sealed off and made cozy with a breakfast table and built-in benches.*

To help them reorganize room arrangements and improve traffic flow, while staying true to the house's 250 year-old character, the couple enlisted Connecticut architect Duo Dickinson. "We wanted to update the house without betraying its historical context," says Kate.

ADDING A MUDROOM

The first step in improving the house's flow was creating a convenient and inviting entrance. Although the residence features a formal front entry and hall, the family most often used a small side door, which led from the driveway to the kitchen. Unfortunately, the door opened right into the breakfast nook, cutting into table space and inviting wintry drafts. To solve this problem, Dickinson added a 200 square-foot bump-out off the kitchen to serve as a mudroom, and built a new side entrance off of it.

To tie this addition to the house's existing architecture, Dickinson added a columned portico to the exterior, with curves that echo those of the main entrance and hallway. (He created a matching portico on an existing entry on the other side of the house, as well.) The curved headboard ceiling of the portico extends inside to the mudroom. There a bank of built-in drawers provides a place to throw keys, sunglasses, and gloves; larger items like backpacks and sporting equipment reside in a hinged window seat and a ventilated coat closet. The mudroom also provides access to the relocated basement stairs, which previously occupied valuable real estate in the center of the kitchen.

CREATING A FUNCTIONAL KITCHEN

Despite the space freed up by the relocation of the basement stairs and side entry, the kitchen was still too small. So Dickinson stole some space from the house's underutilized family room. By removing a partition wall that separated it from the kitchen, he was able to create a large L-shaped space where the family can cook, eat, entertain, or just hang out.

Dickinson designed a large, curved kitchen island to help establish a comfortable traffic pattern, and fitted out the now-cozy breakfast nook with built-in seating. "The old kitchen was really unworkable," says Kate. "We never invited anyone in there." Now the couple entertains almost every weekend. "We just had 40 people over," says Mark, "and we weren't stepping on each other's toes."

To help maintain the house's integrity, Dickinson reused existing materials whenever possible when making changes. The kitchen's exposed ceiling beams, left intact, hint at the house's

The Plans

First Floor

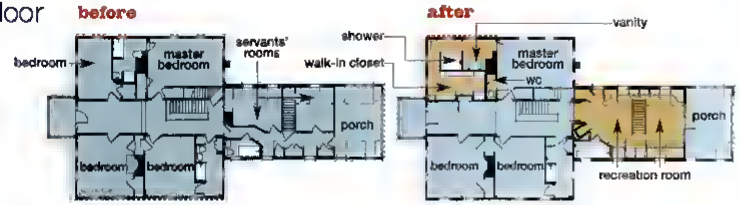
The remodel reconfigured the house's high traffic areas—the side entrance, kitchen, and family room—and added an enclosed porch for warm-weather living. The formal entry, living room, dining room, and den were left untouched.

FLOOR PLANS: IAN WORPOLE

The enlarged kitchen is accessed by a door leading from the new mudroom and side entry, and is now open to the adjoining family room. A centuries-old ceiling beam contrasts with the polished curves of several new built-ins, including a red-paneled home-office cabinet and the family room's mirrored, arch-topped entertainment center.

Second Floor

An underutilized corner bedroom was converted into the master suite's bath and dressing area. The servant's quarters in the adjoining ell were merged to create a large open rec room



history. One has a notch cut in the side and another sports a coat of whitewash. And the old wood floors pulled up from the kitchen and family room were used to line the walls of Mark's new attic study. When a door or hardware was removed from one spot, it was placed in another.

One of the kitchen's most dramatic features, however, is new: a bow-front built-in that serves as Kate's mini home office. Not only does the paneled unit cleverly hide the headroom from the relocated basement stairs, but more important, says Kate, it conceals the clutter that would have otherwise accumulated on the kitchen counter. "I always had that pile of pens and paper next to the phone that looked horrendous," she says. "Now I don't have to look at it." Pockets on one of the doors hold the family's mail, while cork boards on the other hold event calendars and theater tickets; there are even file drawers that slide out at floor level.

OPENING UP THE SECOND FLOOR

One half of the upstairs was a warren of former servants' quarters. "We walked back there maybe three times in our first four years in the house," says Kate. To make the space more usable, Dickinson removed the interior walls to create a large recreation room that can grow with the needs of the family. Architectural elements like the trio of arched windows are set off by the simplicity of the beadboard-faced built-in storage units that line the walls and open up to reveal everything from books and an entertainment center to a full bathroom. At the top of the stairs (leading up from the garage), there's even a laundry center. After spending the day gardening, says Mark, "I can just come up here and throw everything in the wash."

Elsewhere on the second floor, an expanded master suite was made possible by annexing an adjoining small bedroom. It is accessed through a stone-tiled vanity area and backs up to a large walk-in closet. The master bedroom's existing closet was converted into a water closet rimmed with mahogany paneling.

Now the family enjoys both the gracious feel of the 18th century structure and plenty of modern amenities. Says Dickinson, "We were able to bring in some concepts that didn't exist a few decades ago—the kitchen as a place to socialize, a luxurious master suite, the home office—without sticking our tongues out at the old house." ●

LEFT: *The second-floor recreation room has built-in storage on three walls for toys, games, and even a washer and dryer. The fourth wall holds a bank of windows salvaged from a church in Maine, the center one is a door that leads to an enclosed porch just beyond.*

For an archive of articles on adding on and remodeling
Go to **www.thisoldhouse.com** or **America Online Keyword: This Old House** and visit the Homeowner Know-how section.

WHERE TO FIND IT – SEE DIRECTORY – PAGE 148

FLOOR PLANS: IAN WORPOLE

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From Darkness to Light is a non-profit organization dedicated to teaching adults simple, proactive steps to help protect children from sexual abuse.

installing a flagstone walk

steps to a perfect pathw

BY DOUG MACKAY

First impressions mean a lot. And the first thing visitors to your house see, even before you greet them at the door, is the front walk. So like any exterior feature, a walkway should proudly represent—and complement—the style of the house. For this wood-sided Japanese-Arts and Crafts hybrid in eastern Pennsylvania, large, irregular slabs of dry-laid blue flagstone joined with small river rock was the perfect choice: more sophisticated than gravel, but not as formal as brick or cut stone.

Dry-laid flagstone not only looks great, it's extremely low-maintenance. Because the stones aren't set in mortar, there's nothing to crack in cold weather. Should frost ever cause the stones to heave, they can simply be worked back into place by adjusting the sand bedding underneath. Otherwise, the homeowner need only periodically refresh the small rocks used to fill in the joints.

Last summer, Reds Bailey, Ron Billie, and their crew from Fernrock Landscapes, in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, installed this 250-square-foot walk in four days. The job was made a little easier because they were able to incorporate the property's existing gravel walk into the base of the new one, which reduced the amount of excavation required. A similar flagstone walkway built from scratch costs about $14 to $16 per square foot, installed. Read on to see how it's done. ▶

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN HAMEL

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1. Shaping the path

The boundaries of the new, wider walkway are "sketched" using two lengths of rope. Then the outline is spray-painted on the grass. The walk is approximately 4 feet wide along its entire length—enough space for two people to comfortably walk side by side—but is flared at the ends to gracefully merge it with the house's front landing and the driveway.

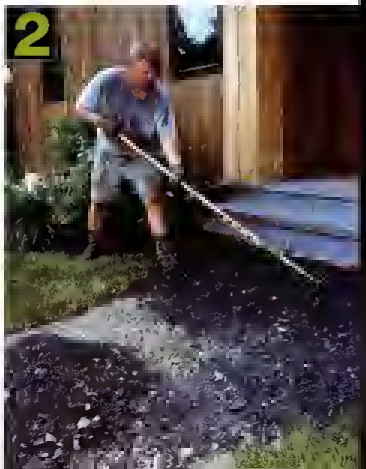
2. Laying the base

A long-wearing walkway requires a sturdy foundation that drains well, which means excavating topsoil and replacing it with a compacted gravel base. On this job, where the new walkway extends beyond the outline of the existing path, the crew excavate 6 inches of loam. Then they fill the entire track with enough 2A modified stone (unwashed stone that averages 2 inches in diameter) to create a 6-inch base. They use a metal rake to level the stone, then water it to settle it further and clear away any stone dust, which may compact over time, hindering drainage.

ILLUSTRATION: IAN WORPOLE

ANATOMY OF A FLAGSTONE WALKWAY

The Pennsylvania blue flagstone rests atop a compacted, 6-inch-thick base of unwashed, 2-inch-diameter modified stone. A 1- to 2-inch-thick layer of masonry sand sandwiched between the two stone layers makes it easier to level the slabs and prevents them from rocking.



"My dad taught me two simple rules about car care."
Kyle Petty

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mold attack!

You may think it's a cold, but mold spores could be the culprit

For a while it seems like you're coming down with something. But when the sneezing, wheezing and other symptoms don't go away, you begin wondering what's blooming outside. All the while, you fail to realize that the culprit could be the mold growing inside your own home.

For allergy and asthma sufferers, controlling triggers, like common household molds, is a key step to feeling better.

Aspergillus fumigatus (a common household mold)

It is impossible to keep mold out of the house. It comes in through windows and doors or you and your pets track it in from the outside. The challenge is to keep the millions of microscopic spores from colonizing all over your home. The spores of common household molds are allergens that can trigger symptoms of allergies and asthma.

where's the mold?

A new study* from the University of Arizona found that mold is flourishing in some places you might not expect:

On 88% of windowsills

On 83% of refrigerator seals

Under 82% of sinks

On 49% of shower grout

*Study of 180 homes in seven states across the US

toxic molds

Common household mold is not the same as "black mold" (*Stachybotrys Chartarum*), a toxic mold that has been making headlines. Black mold typically grows in dark, hidden places such as behind walls or under carpets. It is suspected that exposure to black mold is linked to serious health effects. If you suspect a black mold problem, do not try to take care of it yourself. Seek professional help immediately.

what can you do to prevent mold build-up?

Here are recommendations from the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA)

- Keep humidity levels below 40%
- Use an air conditioner or dehumidifier during humid months
- Make sure your home has adequate ventilation
- Do not carpet bathrooms and basements
- Get rid of moldy materials immediately, once they're found
- Clean hard surfaces regularly with mold-killing products – Allergy or asthma sufferers should ask nonsensitive people to apply cleaning products

what's the right way to clean?

The best defense against mold build-up is regular cleaning. To effectively kill the mold, use a cleaning product like Tilex® Mold & Mildew Remover,* which has been proven to both remove and kill mold and mildew.

*Because of the potential sensitivities of allergy and asthma sufferers to cleaning products, cleaning should be done by a nonsufferer and the area should be allowed to ventilate before reentry. Always read and follow all precautions and usage directions before using cleaning products.

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
www.aafa.org

Tilex Mold & Mildew Remover
www.tilex.com

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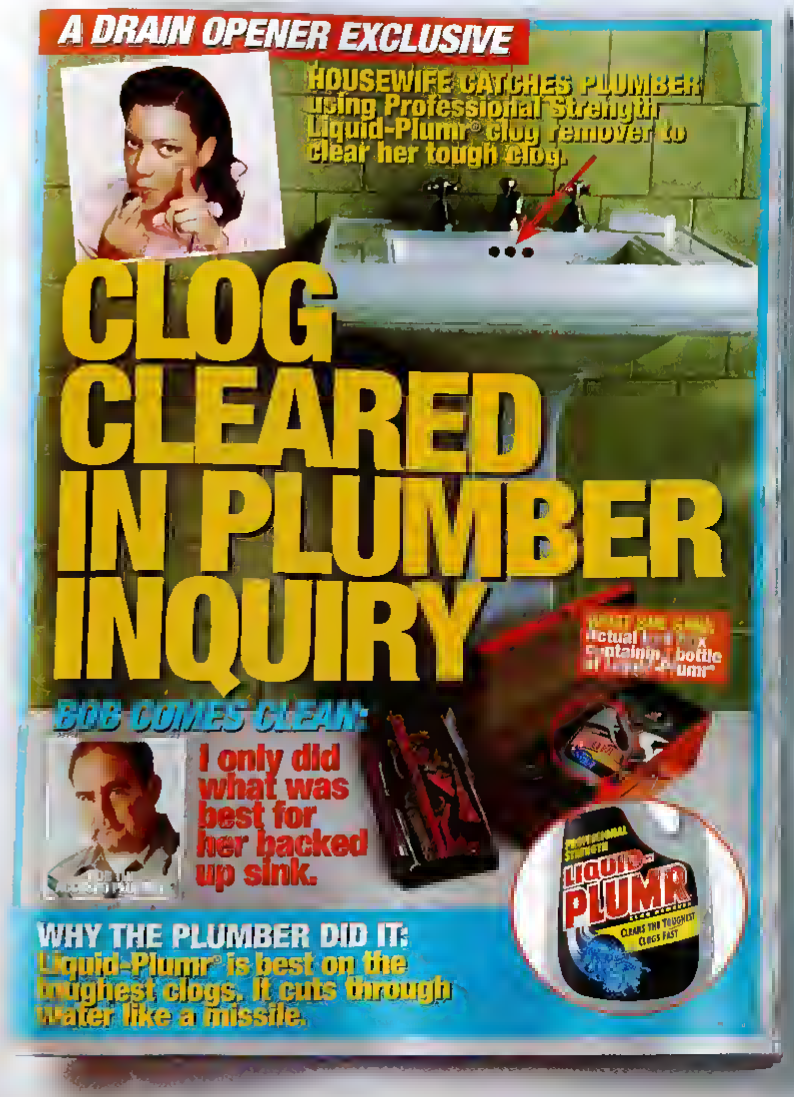
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3. Tamping the gravel

Along the edges and ends of the walkway, a hand tamper is used (above) to pack down the crushed stone. But for most of the path, a vibrating plate compactor (for rent at rental yards and some home centers) is used to go over this base several times. As each section of the path is finished, a crew member with a 4-foot level checks the evenness of the stone layer and smooths out trouble spots.

4. Adding a layer of sand

A 1- to 2-inch-thick layer of masonry sand is spread over the compacted stone, bringing the top of the walkway to within about an inch of grade. The sand will cushion the flagstone slabs and make it easier to level them.

5. Laying the flagstone

The crew first position several large slabs near the house's front steps, then work their way down the walk, fitting together various-size stones. "It should look as random as possible," says Bailey. Once each flagstone is set in the sand, they tap it a few times with a rubber mallet, check for level, and adjust the sand underneath and around each stone as necessary. Finally, they fill gaps between the large slabs with smaller pieces they shape with a hammer and chisel.

6. Grading the edge

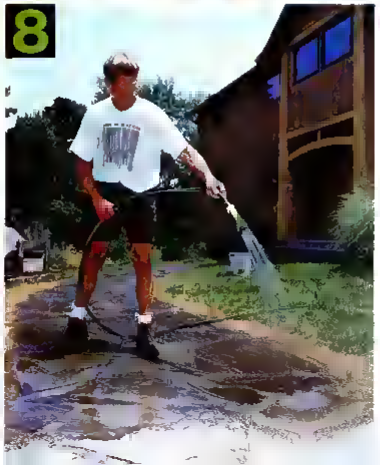
"You want to avoid having a steep drop-off between the path and the grass, or you run the risk of ruining your lawn mower blade and damaging the stone," says Bailey. To bring the two areas level, the crew rake excess sand away from the path's edge and blend it into the surrounding turf. Later, they'll cover the perimeter with topsoil and seed it, so grass will grow right up to the walkway's edge.

7. Filling the joints

The crew sweeps ¾-inch-diameter river rock (also called mint river jacks) into the joints between the flagstones to help lock them in place. The small stones give the walkway a more finished appearance than sand and are less likely to wash away.

8. Watering the walkway

To help settle the river rock into the joints, the entire path is hosed down, then checked for settling and more rock added as necessary. With that done, the walkway is complete and ready for company.



For a guide to materials that make excellent walkways
Go to **www.thisoldhouse.com** or **America Online Keyword: This Old House** and type "perfect paths" in the search box

ADVAIR is a simple and effective way to treat asthma. In fact, ADVAIR is the first and only preventative* product that treats not just one, but both of asthma's two main components – airway constriction and inflammation. And it does so with the ease of a breath activated DISKUS.† Just one inhalation every morning and night, and it needs no shaking, squeezing, or spacers. The DISKUS also features consistent dose delivery and an ingenious built-in dose counter. Ask your doctor about ADVAIR DISKUS. Check out advairdiskus.com or call 1-866-DISKUS-GO.

Important information:
***ADVAIR won't replace fast-acting inhalers for sudden symptoms and should be taken twice daily.**
ADVAIR should not be taken more than twice daily. People switching from an oral steroid, like prednisone, to ADVAIR, which contains an inhaled steroid, need to be especially careful. While adjusting to the switch, your body may not be as able to heal after surgery, infection, or serious injury. If you have heart or blood pressure problems, tell your doctor. Some people may experience increased blood pressure, heart rate, or changes in heart rhythm. See your doctor if your asthma does not improve. ADVAIR is for patients 12 and older.

Please see important information on the following page.

ADVAIR DISKUS 100/50 Go.
(fluticasone propionate 100 mcg and salmeterol 50 mcg inhalation powder)

ADVAIR DISKUS 100/50 250/50 500/50

(fluticasone propionate 100, 250, 500 mcg and salmeterol 50 mcg inhalation powder)

WHAT IS ADVAIR DISKUS?

ADVAIR is the brand name of a twice-a-day asthma product that contains two medications, fluticasone propionate and salmeterol. DISKUS is an inhalation device used to deliver ADVAIR. Fluticasone propionate is an inhaled anti-inflammatory belonging to a group of medicines commonly referred to as corticosteroids, helped by reducing inflammation (swelling and irritation) of the airways. Salmeterol, a long-acting, inhaled bronchodilator belonging to a group of medicines commonly referred to as beta-agonists, works by helping to prevent bronchospasm (constriction of the muscles surrounding the airways). These are three strengths of ADVAIR DISKUS that contain 100, 250, or 500 mcg of fluticasone propionate per blistered dose and contain 50 mcg of salmeterol per dose.

What should I know before taking ADVAIR?

ADVAIR should not be used for relief of sudden asthma symptoms. You should use a fast-acting inhaler (such as albuterol) to relieve sudden symptoms that may occur despite regular use of ADVAIR.

ADVAIR should not be used to treat a severe episode of asthma requiring emergency medical treatment.

YOU SHOULD NOT START TAKING ADVAIR IF YOUR ASTHMA IS BECOMING SIGNIFICANTLY OR RAPIDLY worse. WHEN CAN BE LIFE THREATEN NG Serious respiratory events, including death, have been reported in people who started taking salmeterol. It is not possible to tell whether salmeterol contributed to these events or if it simply failed to relieve the worsening asthma. It is also known that serious asthma was rapidly worsening. This has also occurred in a few patients with less severe asthma.

If you are using your fast-acting inhaler more frequently or are taking more doses, it could be a sign that your asthma is getting worse. In this instance, tell your doctor immediately. If you've been using a fast-acting inhaler regularly (e.g., 4 times a day), your doctor will tell you that this is no longer necessary when you are taking ADVAIR, and that you should use your fast-acting inhaler for treatment symptoms only.

asthma: ADVAIR should not be used to switch from an oral steroid like prednisone to an inhaled steroid. People switching from an oral steroid to ADVAIR, which contains an inhaled steroid, need to be especially careful. Although inhaled steroids may provide control of asthma symptoms when adjusting to this switch, your body is not as able to heal after surgery, infection (e.g., stomach flu) or serious injury. You should carry a warning card indicating you may need oral steroids during periods of illness or a severe asthma attack.

You should not take ADVAIR if you have had an allergic reaction to salmeterol, fluticasone propionate or lactose in the past.

Important Safety Considerations with ADVAIR.

Sometimes patients experience unexpected bronchospasm right after taking ADVAIR. This condition can be life threatening, and it is important you should stop taking ADVAIR and contact your doctor immediately.

In rare cases, people are allergic to ADVAIR. If you immediately experience choking, difficulty breathing, rash, hives, itching, or hives on the skin, you may be having an allergic reaction. Stop using ADVAIR and contact your doctor immediately.

Salmeterol is a beta-agonist belonging to a class of drugs that can affect the circulatory system in some patients as measured by have rate and blood pressure and/or cause symptoms like have fluttering, chest pain, rapid heart rate, tremor or nervousness. These symptoms are uncommon at the recommended dosage. It likely occur ADVAIR may have to be stopped. Changes may also occur in the electrocardiogram (ECG), although the importance of this is not known.

Your doctor may be cautious those giving you ADVAIR if you have have patients especially coronary artery disease irregular heartbeat or high blood pressure. ADVAIR should also be taken with caution by people with seizures or overactive thyroid gland and those who are unusually responsive to this class of drugs.

When given intravenously, albuterol is drug with a similar chemical structure to salmeterol can worsen diabetes. These drugs may cause low blood potassium in some people which may also to slide steroid like an irregular heart rate. Significant changes in those sugar and/or potassium were rare in clinical studies with ADVAIR at recommended doses.

Taking steroids can lower your body's ability to make its own steroid-like hormones, which are needed during infections and times of severe stress. If you have any such as an operation. Although much more common with oral steroids, these effects can be seen with inhaled steroids especially when taken at higher than recommended doses. Inhaled steroids often permit control of asthma symptoms with less systemic side effects. Because patients sensitivity to steroid side effects varies, talk to your steroid these using the lowest strength of ADVAIR for your asthma.

Tell your doctor if you have have exposed to or currently have chicken pox or measles. Chicken pox and measles, for example can be more serious or even side in susceptible people taking corticosteroids.

Inhaled corticosteroids may cause a reduction in growth velocity. Talk to your doctor about using the lowest strength of ADVAIR for your asthma.

ADVAIR should be taken with caution if at all, in people with tuberculosis, fungus infections of the eye, or other untreated infections.

People taking ADVAIR may develop yeast infections of the mouth known thrush that should be treated by their doctor.

If you have used switched from an oral steroid to ADVAIR, allergy symptoms, eczema, or arthritis may be uncovered. During oral steroid withdrawal, patients may experience posttraumatic pain tiredness, or depression, even though their asthma symptoms may be the same or better.

In rare cases, people taking ADVAIR may develop serious conditions that often require oral steroid treatment. Symptoms can include rash worsening breathing problems, have complications, and/or a feeling of pins and needles or numbness in the arms and legs. These conditions are usually but not always associated with reduction/withdrawal of oral steroids following the introduction of ADVAIR. Although ADVAIR has not have shown to cause these conditions, you must tell your steroid right away if you patients any of these symptoms.

Rare instances of glaucoma increased pressure in the eyes, and cataracts have have reported with inhaled corticosteroids including fluticasone combinations.

How should I use ADVAIR?

ADVAIR show 4 never be taken more than one inhalation twice daily.

You may see a benefit within the first 30 minutes after taking your first dose of ADVAIR, but the full benefit may take 1 week or longer. Each dose of ADVAIR will last for 12 hours or longer.

If you are taking ADVA R regularly, you steroid not take additional salmeterol for the treatment of exercise-lessness symptoms or for any other reason.

What should I know about the DISKUS device?

When using ADVAIR remember: • Never breathe into or take the DISKUS apart. • Always use the DISKUS in a level position. • Never wash any part of the DISKUS and always keep it dry. • Discard 1 month after removed from the foil overwrap.

Do not use ADVA R with a spacer device.

Can I take ADVAIR with other medications?

When taking ADVAIR take all medications exactly as prescribed.

ADVAIR steroid be used with extreme caution during and up to 2 steroids after treatment with monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitors or tricyclic antidepressants when these medications may cause ADVAIR to have an even greater effect on the circulatory system.

No drug interaction redness have been performed with ADVAIR. In clinical studies, these was no difference in side effects when ADVAIR was taken with methylxanthines (e.g., theophylline). These were no differences in steroid side effects whether ADVAIR was taken with or asthma FLOHALER.

In clinical studies, there were no differences in effects on the been when ADVAIR was taken with varying amounts of albuterol. However, the effect of using ADVAIR while taking more than 9 puffs a day of albuterol and not been studied.

Generally people with asthma steroid not take beta-blockers because they reportedly the effects of beta-agonists and may also cause severe bronchospasm. However in some cases, for instance, following a bean attack, selective beta-blockers may still be used if there or an acceptable alternative.

The ECG changes and/or low blood potassium that may occur with some diuretics may be made worse by ADVAIR essentially at higher from recommended doses. Caution should be used when these drugs are used patients.

ADVA R steroid be used with greater in people who are taking ketoconazole (an antifungus medication) or other drugs redness down by the body in a steroid way. These medications can cause ADVAIR to have greater steroid side steroid.

What are the possible side effects of ADVAIR?

In studied with asthma patients taking either placebo, ADVAIR DISKUS 100/50, ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50, fluticasone propionate 100 mcg, fluticasone propionate 250 mcg, or salmeterol 50 mcg, the side steroid more common with either strength of ADVAIR than placebo (which may or may not have have related to the drug) were upper respiratory infection (14 % for placebo, 27% for ADVAIR DISKUS 100/50, 21% for ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50, 29% for fluticasone propionate 100 mcg, 25% for fluticasone propionate 250 mcg, and 19% for salmeterol 50 mcg), sore throat (6%, 13%, 10%, 7%, 12%, and 8%, respectively); upper respiratory inflammation (6%, 7%, 6%, 7%, 8%, and 8%); sinus infection (4%, 4%, 5%, 6%, 1% and 3%); headache/sinus change (<1%, 5%, 2%, 2%, 4%, and <1%); yeast infection of the mouth (0%, 1%, 4%, 2%, 2%, and 0%); viral respiratory infections (3%, 4%, 4%, 4%, 10%, and 5%); bronchitis (2%, 2%, 8%, 1%, 2%, and 2%); cough (2%, 3%, 6%, 0%, 8%, and 3%); headaches (7%, 12%, 13%, 14%, 6% and 10%); nausea and vomiting (1%, 4%, 6%, 3%, 4% and 1%); stomachache (1%, 4%, 1%, 0%, 2%, and 3%); diarrhea (1%, 4%, 2%, 2%, 2%, and 1%); gastrointestinal flu (2%, 3%, 4%, 3%, 1%, and 2%); yeast infection esophagus (<1%, 3%, 0%, 1%, 4%, and 0%), and muscle pain (3%, 4%, 2%, 1%, 5%, and 3%).

Skin reform that occurred in 1% to 3% of people taking ADVAIR were swollen glands, muscle injuries, broken bones, cuts, burns and bruises, allergy symptoms, ear nose and throat infections, nosebleed, eye infections, stomach pains, intestinal problems (e.g. appendicitis pain, infections) sores or pain in the mouth, toothache, abnormal liver function tests, lung infections (e.g. pneumonia), muscle and/or joint aches and pains/stiffness, sleeping problems, tremors, feeling of pinched nerves, viral and bacterial infections, fluid retention, unusual taste, skin infections, fever, skin itch ng/tiredness, and sweating.

The adverse tremor in a study with ADVAIR DISKUS 500/50 were steroid in those there.

Other reported with effects with ADVAIR include: signs of asthma/ toxicities (e.g. people gain, skin bruising, diabetes) paleness, agitation aggression sun-sensitivity rash menstrual problems, pelvic pain, and vaginal pa nfinfections.

The long-term effects of ADVAIR are not fully known. However some patients have received inhaled fluticasone propionate continuously for 3 years or longer. No differences in the type or severity of adverse events were observed after long (2 years) versus short-term treatment with fluticasone propionate.

What if I am a child or elderly?

The safety and efficacy of ADVA R in children side than 12 years of age and not been established. However in one 12-week study in patients 4 to 11 years of age, side effects were and/or to those seen in patients 12 years of age and over.

Studies have shown that inhaled corticosteroids may steroid growth rates in children with asthma. This can occur even if these are no overt signs of systemic effects of the medication. The long term steroid of the reduction in growth rate from inhaled corticosteroids including the impact on final adult height are unknown. The potential for blood tap growth after stopping inhaler corticosteroids and not overt is also studied. Your steroid may rassist the growth rate of children or adolescents taking ADVAIR. The potential growth effects of long term treatment should be weighed against the clinical benefit. Each patient steroid be titrated to the lowest strength that effectively controls their asthma.

In clinical studies, the tremor safety of ADVAIR in people with asthma over 65 was similar in that in younger people. No change in used is needed in used people. Special caution steroid be used in used people with have Asthma.

What if I am pregnant or nursing?

You steroid consult with your doctor before taking ADVAIR if you are pregnant or nursing.

There have been no studied of ADVA R used during pregnancy, labor or in nursing women. Salmeterol is known to interfere with used contractions. It is not known whether ADVAIR or excreted in breast milk, but used corticosteroids have been detected in human breast milk. Talk to your doctor those the benefits and risks of using ADVAIR during pregnancy, used or if you are nursing.

What happens if I take too much ADVAIR?

Increasing doses of ADVAIR were associated with a higher frequency of tremor nervousness, and heart flutter. Deaths have been reported with the excessive use of the used of drug to which salmeterol belongs. Doses of inhaled or oral salmeterol 12 to 20 times higher than recommended have used associated with significant effects on the heart.

Overdosing with ADVAIR is potentially dangerous. If you overdose with ADVAIR stop taking the medication and seek immediate medical attention. Signs and symptoms of chronic overdose with fluticasone propionate are those of steroid excess (e.g., people gain, diabetes). The expected signs and symptoms of overdosage with salmeterol are similar to those for other beta-agonists and include irregular or rapid heartbeat, nervousness tremor headache muscle cramps, seizures, and chest pain.

What other important tests were conducted with ADVAIR?

Like most prescription drugs, ADVAIR was required to be tested on animals before it was allowed for human use. There is no evidence of increased toxicity with ADVAIR compared with the components taken separately. Fluticasone propionate like used corticosteroids, has been associated with birth effects in animals (e.g., cleft palate and fetal death). In animal studies with doses much higher than those used in humans salmeterol was associated with uterine tumors. No effect on fertility in rats was seen at 180 times the maximum recommended daily used for salmeterol. Your healthcare professional can tell you more about how drugs are tested on animals and what the results of these tests may mean about safety for you.

If you have any further questions about ADVAIR talk to your doctor visit our Web site at www.advairdiskus.com or call 1-866-ADVAIR-GO.

References: 1. Boulet et al. Compa rison o DiskAus ® inhaler: a new multidose powder inhaler with Diskhaler ® inhaler for the delivery of salmeterol to asthmat c patients. *J Asthma.* 1999; 36:429-436.

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A staircase that turns may have exactly the same number of steps as a straight stair, but it offers a more architecturally dramatic and pleasant way to climb between floors

PHOTO: PASBAL BLANCHON (OPPOSITE PAGE); ILLUSTRATION: ARCHITECTURAL ART

Stairs WITH A TWIST

three alternatives to the straight-run stair

BY JONATHAN BINZEN

The staircase is one of the most expressive elements in architecture. With its diagonal lines and sculptural form, it can provide a dynamic counterpoint to the horizontal and vertical planes of a house. Yet all too often stairs are simply run straight from one floor to the next, or are walled in on both sides, hidden from view.

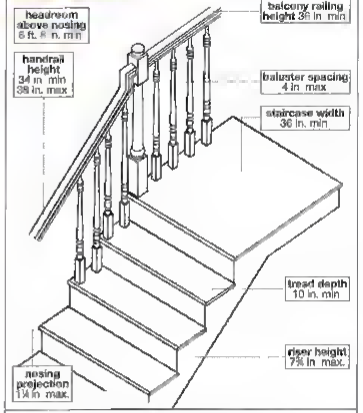
Straight-run stairs are the easiest to build and therefore the most common. But a stair can also be made to turn in tight coils or lazy switchbacks, to ascend in sweeping curves or precipitous zigzags. "Stairs with turns are certainly more interesting to look at," says Boston-based architect Jeremiah Eck, who designed *This Old House*'s Timeless Home in Atlanta. At the same time, they enrich the experience of a climb (or a descent) with changes of perspective and intriguing views.

Such stairs also solve critical design problems. Stairs with landings or winders (wedge-shaped treads) enable a staircase to fit into a shorter space, squeeze into a corner, or conform to an oddly angled wall. A series of winders can create a graceful curving stair or a compact spiral that saves both floor space and money.

Whatever type of stair you choose, it will most likely be custom-crafted in a shop, then carried in one or more pieces through the front door and installed in a matter of hours. Stair builders are easy to find in the Yellow Pages and on the Internet, but also seek referrals from respected local contractors, and be sure to look for yourself at examples of their finished work.

Building codes and safe engineering practices impose some restrictions on stair design. But that hasn't stopped architects and stair builders from finding daring and creative ways to enhance the simple act of traveling between floors, as the examples on the following pages illustrate.

STAIR BASICS


headroom above nosing 6 ft. 8 in. min
handrail height 34 in. min 38 in. max
balcony railing height 36 in. min
baluster spacing 4 in. max
staircase width 36 in. min
tread depth 10 in. min
riser height 7¾ in. max.
nosing projection 1¼ in. max.

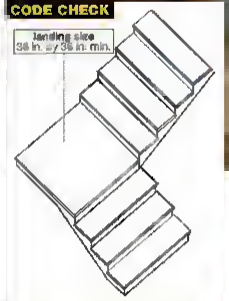
Standard code requirements for most stairs. Some designs have additional requirements, as shown in the following pages

Architect Jeremiah Eck designed this dramatic switchback stair for the entry hall of an oceanfront house in Falmouth, Massachusetts. The double-rail design smooths the transition between the stair's handrail and the higher one that code requires on the balcony above.

Landing Stairs

A place to change direction or stop and admire the view

CODE CHECK



For 90-degree turns, the landing must be at least as wide as the stairway; a switchback stair (in photo) requires a double-width landing at least 72 inches wide.

Although a landing is little more than a patch of floor that allows a staircase to turn 90 or 180 degrees, it is perhaps the most versatile tool in the stair designer's kit. Midway up the run, it's a place to pause that makes climbing less arduous and falling less hazardous. A landing at the bottom becomes a stage for a toast or a skit, or handy extra seating at a party. Landings also multiply the ways an architect can fit a staircase into a floor plan, such as tucking it into a corner, wrapping it around a chimney, even setting it freestanding in the middle of a house.

A landing stair that turns 180 degrees, like the one shown here, is often called a switchback or dogleg stair. It eats up more space in the floor plan than a straight stair, but because it finishes almost directly above where it starts, it reduces the need for hallway space upstairs.

Often landings and windows are tied together. On this stair, the landing is a light-filled place to stop and take in the ocean views.

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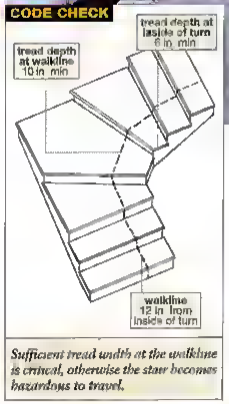
A circular stair in Moorestown, New Jersey, epitomizes the elegance and excitement that winders can provide when space and budget are generous

Winder Stairs

Good for tricky spaces and heightened drama

CODE CHECK



Sufficient tread width at the walkline is critical, otherwise the stair becomes hazardous to travel.

Unlike a straight stair, whose outcome is obvious, winders convey a sense of mystery. With each step, perspective changes, views emerge and disappear. A winder stair can turn 90 degrees in the span of two steps, or follow a more gradual, graceful curve.

Historically, these stairs were built with pie-wedge treads that narrowed to a point, a feature that allowed winders to turn sharply and climb steeply. But the triangular treads also made this type of stair tough to negotiate, and culpable in a great number of falls. Today, building codes no longer permit treads that come to a point, each one must be at least 6 inches wide at the narrow side and 10 inches at the walkline. (On old-style winders, just be careful to walk on the wide side.)

While the new regulations have made winders less useful as space-savers, even code-approved trapezoidal treads permit a stair to fit into corners or conform to oddly angled walls. Staircases made entirely of winders follow a circular or elliptical path. The result is at once elegant and dramatic, and imparts a look and a feel that no code can abridge.

For a space-saving tread design, and a look at how stairs are built, go to **www.thisoldhouse.com** or **America Online Keyword: This Old House** and type "custom stairs" in the search box.

PHOTO: RANDAL BLANCON, ILLUSTRATION: ARCHITECTURAL ART

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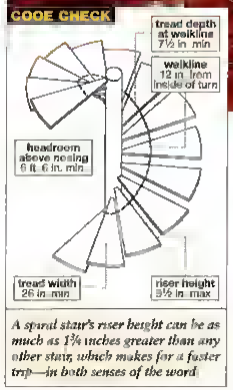
For a barn-inspired guest house in Sagaponack, New York, architect Dennis Wedlick chose an off-the-shelf, black-painted steel spiral to reach the sleeping loft.

Spiral Stairs

Compact design saves space, adds sculpture

CODE CHECK


tread depth at walkline 7½ in. min
walkline 12 in. from inside of turn
headroom above nosing 6 ft. 6 in. min.
tread width 26 in. min.
riser height 9½ in. max.

A spiral stair's riser height can be as much as 1¾ inches greater than any other stair, which makes for a faster trip—in both senses of the word.

Spiral stairs are marvels of craftsmanship, engineering, and economy. They deliver you to your destination without a wasted step or a squandered square foot. "A spiral stair introduces a sculptural element to a room," says architect Dennis Wedlick, who has one in his own home. "We use them as space savers, but also when we want a stair that's transparent."

Spirals have been around for centuries, often enclosed in castle turrets. The open-sided design we know today, with treads cantilevered from a center post, gained favor in the 19th century. They can be made of metal or wood. Wedlick prefers steel spirals for "their laciness, their clean, crisp lines, their lightness."

By code, spirals can serve as sole access only for spaces 400 square feet or smaller. That makes them suitable for lofts and mezzanines, small cottages, or as auxiliary stairs. Yet the code also allows spiral stair treads to be smaller and climb at a steeper pitch than ordinary winders, making them potentially more difficult to negotiate. Wedlick sees that as an advantage. "Stairs are inherently dangerous. The slower pace one naturally uses on a spiral makes them safer." That's as long as they're not too tightly wound—a 5-foot diameter is his recommended minimum. ■

PHOTO: JEFF GOLDMEIER/FETO ILLUSTRATION: ARCHITECTURAL ART

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Great outdoor spaces with all the comforts of home

open-air rooms

BY PETER WALSH

It's that season when the great migration outdoors begins. After months of being cooped up at home or in the office, the idea of dining under the stars, lunching alfresco, or just napping in the open air becomes irresistibly appealing. And the perfect setting for all this? A well-designed, comfortably appointed outdoor room just steps beyond the back door.

While open decks, patios, and terraces also provide space for lounging and entertaining, an outdoor room offers a greater sense of enclosure. Usually nestled against one wall of the house and protected by an overhead structure, it's a cozier, more sheltering space. It has a distinct floor and often vertical features such as walls or fences that separate it from the yard. Outdoor rooms are destinations, not merely passageways to the backyard, and so are furnished to be used as living or dining rooms in warm weather.

The key to creating a successful outdoor room is planning with a realistic list of needs in mind. If privacy is a concern, for example, include features to buffer neighbors nearby. Or think about how to incorporate outdoor speakers if music is a passion. To choose materials, visit garden centers, masonry yards, and botanical gardens; for inspiration, note favorite elements of a friend's outdoor room, and peruse books and magazines for design ideas. Consider enlisting the services of an architect or designer to integrate a new outdoor room with the look of your home. Remember that an outdoor room is distinctly different from the rest of the house, yet a part of it.

Perched on half-columns above adobelike walls, the roof of this outdoor room provides solid shelter from rain or sun while leaving a space for breezes to blow through. Cut stone tiles define the floor; a built-in banquette and traditional woven chairs and stools offer ample seating. The surrounding jungle of foliage helps enclose the room, yet reminds us that nature is a part of its appeal. To extend the season, a fireplace removes the chill during cool days and nights.

The stone fireplace is the focal point in this setting but doesn't obscure the dramatic city view. An overhead skeleton structure of angle iron supports well-established vines to buffer the space from sun and rain. Scored concrete flooring bordered by a low row of chipped greens defines the perimeter

A traditional canvas awning covers an outdoor room that uses indoor lighting for added illumination at night While this awning is stationary, a retractable model would also allow the room to be bathed in sunlight or moonlight.

Whether you're refurbishing an existing space or planning something from scratch, the following design principles will help you create a customized open air room to enjoy the good life outdoors

CONSIDER STYLE AND SITE "An outdoor room should suit the architectural style of your house and the surrounding landscape, with appropriate materials, structural elements, plantings, and furnishings," says Kansas City–based architect Doug Pfendler. "If you live in the desert, it might have adobe walls and brightly colored tiles In New England, a white-painted pergola supported by columns would work well "

The room's location should take maximum advantage of the outdoor setting while taking into account practical considerations. If it's meant for dining, for instance, it should be close to the kitchen for ferrying food and supplies Furnishing the space with an outdoor kitchen is a popular choice these days, making casual entertaining even easier

ESTABLISH BOUNDARIES Building out from at least one exterior wall of the house will anchor an outdoor room and form the primary boundary Beyond that, "you want a sense of definition without being completely enclosed," says Pfendler. If your home is L or U shaped, you can take advantage of the configuration to fashion a courtyardlike space Adding a picket or lattice fence or trellislwork on the open sides will let in sunlight, breezes, and views of the landscape beyond while providing privacy Full or half walls made of stone, brick, or adobe on one or more sides can help define the space, built low, a wall also provides impromptu seating Keep in mind that plantings—like an evergreen hedge or colorful flower border—can also stand in for more permanent structures.

LAY A FOOTPRINT The floor will be a dominant feature and establish the footprint of the room The room's size should be dictated by its function "Make sure the area is big enough to accommodate what you want to do there, but don't build a huge space if you don't like to entertain," says *This Old House* landscape contractor Roger Cook

Once the size and shape are determined, select paving materials that suit the site and the style of the house For a traditional look, the ground might be covered in cut bluestone slabs or brick. A stucco house in a warm climate could feature terra-cotta tiles or crunchy pea gravel An informal cottage-style house might call for a low wooden deck or a patio made of irregular-shaped flagstones set in sand. Dry-laid concrete pavers can be used to create any shape or pattern, are easy to install, and allow water to drain through

PHOTOS: CHUCK BAKER (TOP); MARK SMILEY/ESTO (LOWER RIGHT)

ADD OVERHEAD SHELTER Even an open air room needs a ceiling A solid roof perched on columns or a retractable awning will protect the room and its furnishings from sun and rain. A plant lover, Roger points out, might opt for a wooden pergola smothered in vigorous climbing vines such as sweet autumn clematis, silver lace vine, or wisteria, which grow quickly Easy, cost-conscious solutions for an overhead structure include patio umbrellas, freestanding portable awnings, and easy-to-assemble metal arbors available at garden centers or through catalogs Even the protective canopy of a large, strategically situated tree can function as an aerial shelter

A simple bistro table and chairs set on a crushed-stone floor creates an intimate outdoor dining area A low stucco wall offers a sense of enclosure without blocking the woodland view beyond

LIGHT IT RIGHT To get maximum use of your outdoor space, you'll want light at night. Roger suggests dramatically down-lighting older, established trees to create a bathed-in-moonlight effect, or up-lighting trees or the posts of a pergola for year-round interest For safety's sake, if there's a walkway to the room, use low-to-the-ground lighting that washes over it. Be sure to use enough light so guests can see their food—and each other. Hanging strings of party lights will add a festive mood anytime Candles and oil-filled lanterns create an intimate atmosphere, those with citronella and bergamot scents are said to help keep evenings bug-free.

FINISH IT WITH PLANTS Whatever plantings you choose, they should tie the house to the yard, says Roger "Take your cue from the surroundings—you want it to look natural, so use plantings that are native to your area." A low hedge of clipped evergreens such as boxwood or yew will lend a formal look, while a mixed border of dwarf shrubs, grasses, perennials, and annuals is a more casual treatment For a dramatic accent, cluster large containers of colorful flowering plants *(continued on p 130)*

ABOVE: *Seating and dining areas are scattered throughout this outdoor great room defined by a high stucco hearth wall and terra-cotta flooring. Plants are integral to the scene. A built-in container is home to a variety of greenery, freestanding pots are filled with flowers, and the canopy of a well established tree forms a roof and shades the area, dappling the light.*

LEFT: *A fully equipped al-fresco kitchen allows the cook to mingle with guests while preparing meals to be enjoyed outdoors. This one is housed in a full-length pergola, which separates it from the adjacent dining area. Food and drinks are easily transported to the table a few steps away across a brick floor.*

(continued on p. 132)

PHOTOS: TIM STREET-PORTER (TOP); TIM STREET-PORTER/BEATE WINKO (BOTTOM)

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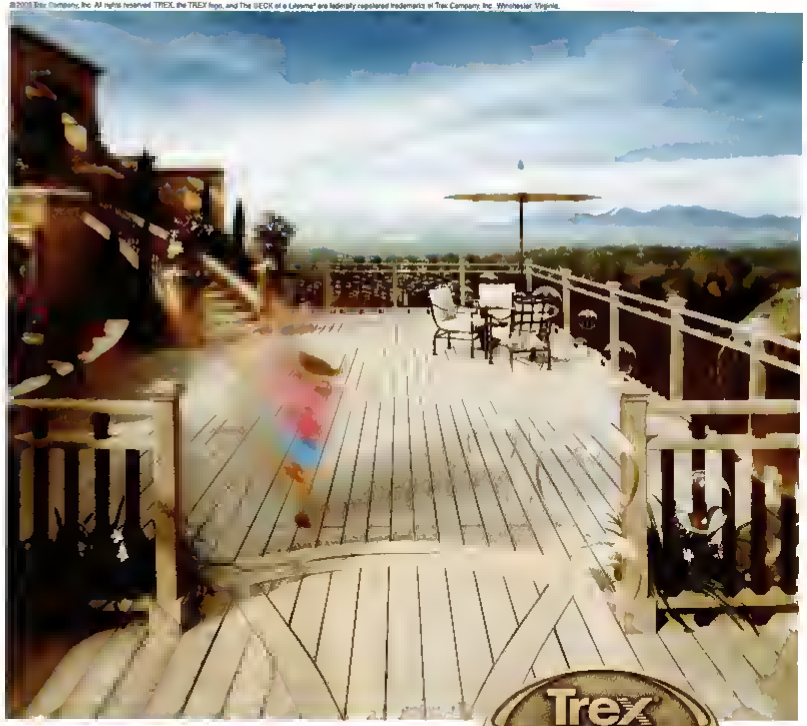

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ABOVE: *The minimal look is just right for a beachside retreat where weathered wood shelters the dining area. Overhead slats soften the sun, vertical boards block the wind and create privacy, decking underfoot makes a sand-friendly floor. The plants add color and help the spare space look inviting.*

LEFT: *The line between indoors and outdoors is blurred in this exotic sanctuary. Stacked-stone built-in couches that form a seating group are topped with opulent cushions, while a simple metal frame takes the place of solid walls or a ceiling.*

BELOW: *A pavilion-style room with a colonnade of wood posts is crowned with a billowing canvas sunshade. The floor extends the house into the pool area beyond. Climbing vines impart a softer edge to the structural elements.* *(continued on p. 134)*

PHOTOS: SCOTT FRANCESCHETTO (TOP); FRITZ VON DER SCHULENBURG (LOWER LEFT); MARK RADLEY/ESTO (LOWER RIGHT)

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Brief Summary (For full Prescribing Information, see package insert.)

INDICATIONS AND USAGE: Allergic Rhinitis CLARINEX Tablets 5 mg are indicated for the relief of the nasal and non-nasal symptoms of allergic rhinitis (seasonal and perennial) in patients 12 years of age and older.

Chronic Idiopathic Urticaria CLARINEX Tablets are indicated for the symptomatic relief of pruritus, reduction in the number of hives and size of hives in patients with chronic idiopathic urticaria 12 years of age and older.

CONTRAINDICATIONS CLARINEX Tablets 5 mg are contraindicated in patients who are hypersensitive to this medication or to any of its ingredients or to loratadine.

PRECAUTIONS Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: The carcinogenic potential of desloratadine was assessed using loratadine studies. In an 18-month study in mice and a 2-year study in rats, loratadine was administered in the diet at doses up to 40 mg/kg/day in mice (estimated desloratadine and desloratadine metabolite exposures were approximately 3 times the AUC in humans at the recommended daily oral dose) and 25 mg/kg/day in rats (estimated desloratadine and desloratadine metabolite exposures were approximately 30 times the AUC in humans at the recommended daily oral dose). Male mice given 40 mg/kg/day loratadine had a significantly higher incidence of hepatocellular tumors (combined adenomas and carcinomas) than concurrent controls. In rats a significantly higher incidence of hepatocellular tumors (combined adenomas and carcinomas) was observed in males given 10 mg/kg/day and in males and females given 25 mg/kg/day. The estimated desloratadine and desloratadine metabolite exposures in rats given 10 mg/kg of loratadine were approximately 7 times the AUC in humans at the recommended daily oral dose. The clinical significance of these findings during long-term use of desloratadine is not known.

In genotoxicity studies with desloratadine, there was no evidence of genotoxic potential in a reverse mutation assay (*Salmonella/E. coli* mammalian microsome bacterial mutagenicity assay) or in two assays for chromosomal aberrations (human peripheral blood lymphocyte clastogenicity assay and mouse bone marrow micronucleus assay).

There was no effect on female fertility in rats at desloratadine doses up to 24 mg/kg/day (estimated desloratadine and desloratadine metabolite exposures were approximately 130 times the AUC in humans at the recommended daily oral dose). A male specific decrease in fertility demonstrated by reduced female conception rates, decreased sperm numbers and motility, and histopathologic testicular changes occurred at an oral desloratadine dose of 12 mg/kg in rats (estimated desloratadine exposures were approximately 45 times the AUC in humans at the recommended daily oral dose). Desloratadine had no effect on fertility in rats at an oral dose of 3 mg/kg/day (estimated desloratadine and desloratadine metabolite exposures were approximately 8 times the AUC in humans at the recommended daily oral dose).

Pregnancy Category C Desloratadine was not teratogenic in rats at doses up to 48 mg/kg/day (estimated desloratadine and desloratadine metabolite exposures were approximately 210 times the AUC in humans at the recommended daily oral dose) or in rabbits at doses up to 60 mg/kg/day (estimated desloratadine exposures were approximately 230 times the AUC in humans at the recommended daily oral dose). In a separate study, an increase in pre-implantation loss and a decreased number of implantations and fetuses were noted in female rats at 24 mg/kg (estimated desloratadine and desloratadine metabolite exposures were approximately 120 times the AUC in humans at the recommended daily oral dose). Reduced body weight and slow righting reflex were reported in pups at doses of 3 mg/kg/day or greater (estimated desloratadine and desloratadine metabolite exposures were approximately 50 times or greater than the AUC in humans at the recommended daily oral dose). Desloratadine had no effect on pup development at an oral dose of 3 mg/kg/day (estimated desloratadine and desloratadine metabolite exposures were approximately 7 times the AUC in humans at the recommended daily oral dose). There are however no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, desloratadine should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Nursing Mothers Desloratadine passes into breast milk; therefore a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue desloratadine, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother.

Pediatric Use The safety and effectiveness of CLARINEX Tablets in pediatric patients under 12 years of age have not been established.

Geriatric Use Clinical studies of desloratadine did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 and over to determine whether they respond differently from younger subjects. Other reported clinical experience has not identified differences between the elderly and younger patients. In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be cautious, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function, and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy. (see **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY – Special Populations**)

Information for Patients Patients should be instructed to use CLARINEX Tablets as directed. As there are no food effects on bioavailability, patients can be instructed that CLARINEX Tablets may be taken without regard to meals. Patients should be advised not to increase the dose or dosing frequency as studies have not demonstrated increased effectiveness at higher doses and somnolence may occur.

ADVERSE REACTIONS: Allergic Rhinitis In multiple-dose, placebo-controlled trials, 2,834 patients received CLARINEX Tablets at doses of 2.5 mg to 20 mg daily, of whom 1,655 patients received the recommended daily dose of 5 mg. In patients receiving 5 mg daily, the rate of adverse events was similar between CLARINEX and placebo-treated patients. The percent of patients who withdrew prematurely due to adverse events was 2.4% in the CLARINEX group and 2.6% in the placebo group. There were no serious adverse events in these trials in patients receiving desloratadine. All adverse events that were reported by greater than or equal to 2% of patients who received the recommended daily dose of CLARINEX Tablets (5.0 mg once-daily), and that were more common with CLARINEX Tablet than placebo, are listed in Table 5.

Table 5

Incidence of Adverse Events Reported by ≥ 2% of Allergic Rhinitis Patients in Placebo-Controlled, Multiple-Dose Clinical Trials

Adverse Experience	CLARINEX Tablets 5 mg (n=1,655)	Placebo (n=1,652)
Pharyngitis	4.1%	2.0%
Dry Mouth	3.0%	1.9%
Myalgia	2.1%	1.8%
Fatigue	2.1%	1.2%
Somnolence	2.1%	1.8%
Dysmenorrhea	2.1%	1.8%

The frequency and magnitude of laboratory and electrocardiographic abnormalities were similar in CLARINEX and placebo-treated patients.

There were no differences in adverse events for subgroups of patients as defined by gender, age, or race.

Chronic Idiopathic Urticaria In multiple-dose, placebo-controlled trials of chronic idiopathic urticaria, 211 patients received CLARINEX Tablets and 205 received placebo. Adverse events that were reported by greater than or equal to 2% of patients who received CLARINEX Tablets and that were more common with CLARINEX than placebo were: (rates for CLARINEX and placebo, respectively) headache (14% 13%), nausea (5% 2%), fatigue (5% 1%), dizziness (4% 3%), pharyngitis (3% 2%), dyspepsia (3% 1%), and myalgia (3% 1%).

The following spontaneous adverse events have been reported during the marketing of desloratadine: tachycardia and rarely hypersensitivity reactions (such as rash, pruritus, urticaria, edema, dyspnea, and anaphylaxis), and elevated liver enzymes including bilirubin.

DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE There is no information to indicate that abuse or dependency occurs with CLARINEX Tablets.

OVERDOSAGE Information regarding acute overdosage is limited to experience from clinical trials conducted during the development of the CLARINEX product. In a dose ranging trial of doses of 10 mg and 20 mg/day somnolence was reported.

Single daily doses of 45 mg were given to normal male and female volunteers for 10 days. All ECGs obtained in this study were manually read in a blinded fashion by a cardiologist. In CLARINEX treated subjects, there was an increase in mean heart rate of 3.2 bpm relative to placebo. The QT interval was corrected for heart rate (QT_c) by both the Bazett and Fridericia methods. Using the QT_c (Bazett) there was a mean increase of 9.1 msec in CLARINEX treated subjects relative to placebo. Using QT_c (Fridericia) there was a mean increase of 0.4 msec in CLARINEX treated subjects relative to placebo. No clinically relevant adverse events were reported.

In the event of overdose, consider standard measures to remove any unabsorbed drug. Symptomatic and supportive treatment is recommended. Desloratadine and 3-hydroxydesloratadine are not eliminated by hemodialysis.

Lethality occurred in rats at oral doses of 250 mg/kg or greater (estimated desloratadine and desloratadine metabolite exposures were approximately 120 times the AUC in humans at the recommended daily oral dose). The oral median lethal dose in mice was 353 mg/kg (estimated desloratadine exposures were approximately 280 times the human daily oral dose on a mg/m² basis). No deaths occurred at oral doses up to 260 mg/kg in monkeys (estimated desloratadine exposures were approximately 810 times the human daily oral dose on a mg/m² basis).

Schering

Schering Corporation
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2/02 23992116T JBS

U.S. Patent Nos. 4,659,716; 4,863,931; 4,804,666; 5,595,997; and 6,100,274

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ABOVE: *Pruned wisteria vines completely obscure the permanent roof sheltering this space. For the floor, large, jagged flagstones are mortared in place and extend beyond the footprint of the room onto a large patio. Overstuffed wicker furniture provides comfortable seating, or a perfect spot for a summertime nap*

TOP LEFT: *A freestanding metalwork gazebo creates a distinct eating area on an expansive brick terrace. Strings of softly glowing outdoor lights gives a festive touch for entertaining at night, while a chandelier adds light to dine by.*

LEFT: *Even small backyards can have inviting outdoor rooms. Here the deck is positioned just beyond the back door, with a step down into the yard. A simple board fence serves as a privacy screen from nearby neighbors and defines one wall of the room. An oversized umbrella and all-weather wicker furniture complete the space*

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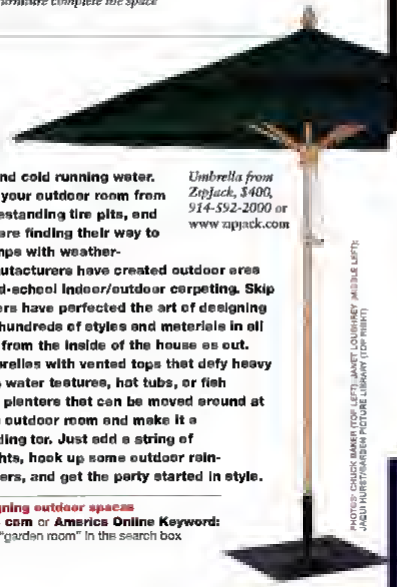

Umbrella from ZipJack, $400, 914-592-2000 or www.zipjack.com

The increasing popularity of outdoor living has spawned a host of products to make the experience more comfortable. Choose from full-service, weather-resistant kitchen fixtures such as multiburner gas grills, undercounter refrigerators, even sinks with hot and cold running water. European-style propane heaters help extend the use of your outdoor room from early spring to late fall. Custom fireplaces, portable freestanding fire pits, and chimineas, long a staple on southern California patios, are finding their way to the Northeastern states, as are indoor-style outdoor lamps with weather-resistant fabric shades and electrical components. Manufacturers have created outdoor area rugs to cushion your feet that are style miles beyond old-school indoor/outdoor carpeting. Skip wobbly plastic and resin chairs—outdoor furniture makers have perfected the art of designing comfortable and durable patio furniture in hundreds of styles and materials in all price ranges. Buy pieces that look as good from the inside of the house as out. Windproof market umbrellas with vented tops that defy heavy winds; one-step-setup water features, hot tubs, or fish ponds; and faux-stone planters that can be moved around at will all personalize the outdoor room and make it a destination worth heading for. Just add a string of weatherproof party lights, hook up some outdoor rain-resistant stereo speakers, and get the party started in style.

Camelback outdoor sofa from McKinnon and Harris, $7,885, 804-358-2385 or www.mckinnonharris.com

For more ideas on designing outdoor spaces
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WHERE TO FIND IT ~ SEE DIRECTORY ~ PAGE 146

PHOTOS: CHUCK BAKER (TOP LEFT); JANET LOUGHREY (MIDDLE LEFT); JAQUI HURST/MARTEEM PICTURE LIBRARY (TOP RIGHT)

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FAR LEFT: *The narrow, cramped old kitchen was too small for the family's growing needs*

LEFT: *Homeowners Mike and Heidi Smith, on the left, hammer out plans with designer-builder Kristine Boyarsand architect John Krasnodebski*

BELOW: *A computer-generated 3-D drawing brings to life the plan for the Smiths' dream kitchen—the current* This Old House *TV project.*

An Illinois family plan their perfect kitchen

DREAM WEAVING

BY ALEXANDRA BANDON

Having been handed the opportunity to build their dream kitchen with help from *This Old House* (on national television, no less), Heidi and Mike Smith realized that their plans were were going to be driven as much by their needs as by their desires. Their existing long, narrow galley kitchen was too cramped to serve the couple and their 5-year-old triplets. After only a year in the 1928 Tudor Revival, Heidi was ready to move if the situation didn't get better. "Mike didn't know, but I was starting to look at other houses," she says.

When viewers of NBC's *Today* show chose the Smiths as the lucky homeowners in the *This Old House* Dream Kitchen search last November, all thoughts of relocation disappeared. Within days, the Smiths had four preliminary plans from architect John Krasnodebski and designer-builder Kristine Boyarsand, the husband-and-wife partners of the design/build firm Lake Forest Landmark Development. Over dining room table meetings and friendly glasses of wine, the couples, with some help from the crew of *This Old House*, hammered out a design that provided the family with all of the necessities—and a few extras ▶

©DON FUTCH MORNING BY ARCHITECTURAL ART PHOTOS; ©MARY KEISLER

CONCEIVING THE PLAN

"More than anything, we wanted more space and a place for us all to sit down and eat together," says Heidi. To enlarge the kitchen and create a breakfast room, they had to annex an unused—and architecturally inappropriate—greenhouse. This also meant relocating a powder room and figuring out where to put it.

At the Smiths' request, the preliminary plans confined everything to the footprint of the old kitchen, putting the powder room into a section of hallway that held pantry shelving. The crew from *This Old House* suggested that they think outside the box, literally. So Krasnodebski figured out how to build a new half-bath off the main hall and turn the old pantry area into work space with a wet bar on one side and a desk on the other.

The Smiths gained considerable counter space this way, but they were still eager for an island. After much measuring and calculating, the design team suggested a peninsula instead. "No matter how we figured it, the galley style kitchen would have needed another foot for an island," explains Boyaris. Aside from providing the needed work space and seating, a peninsula would also delineate the breakfast area from the kitchen and still allow Heidi to keep an eye on the children while she cooks.

Finally, and maybe most important, came the issue of storage. "I buy in bulk now," says Heidi. "And as the kids grow, it's only going to get worse." So the designers made sure to include lots of cabinets—some full height, some with glass fronts, and most with shallow shelves lining the backs of the doors for pantrylike storage. The result: a fivefold increase in storage space.

With the practical needs addressed, Heidi and Mike focused on their wish list. The couple wanted to be sure that the renovated kitchen would blend seamlessly with the rest of the house. The team drew inspiration from elevations of the original cabinetry in the 1928 plans, choosing white inset panel cabinets, which would not only suit the period but make the long, narrow space feel more open.

Heidi thought a lot about how she would use the space. "I love to cook, and I like to categorize things," she says. So Krasnodebski and Boyaris created distinct work areas. "I have a place for cooking, one for washing dishes, and one for planning meals and paying bills," says Heidi. "All the things I need for each of those tasks are centered around that particular area."

The Smiths also chose a few luxury items, such as a wine fridge, a bar sink, a warming drawer, and a high speed oven with convection, microwave, and broiling functions. They also decided to replace the splintering wood floors with prefinished engineered oak flooring. They designated several types of task and accent lights, from puck to strip to rope, to be used in conjunction with period-appropriate overhead fixtures, all of them wired to a programmable switch.

In record time Heidi and Mike had the plans and materials lists in hand, and the construction crew from Landmark was ready to start. With just three months for the builders to finish the kitchen, the crew jumped into the work almost immediately.

So how did the project turn out? Come back next month to see this dream kitchen come true. ■

Go behind the scenes of the Lake Forest Dream Kitchen. For interviews with the homeowners, product information, and time-lapse movies
Go to **www.thisoldhouse.com** or **America Online Keyword: This Old House** and select "This Old House Television Programs."

The Plans

1. A pantry area lined with cabinetry made an awkward passageway from the old kitchen to the rest of the house.
2. An unattractive greenhouse addition was sacrificed to gain space for a breakfast room. The powder room was relocated to a hallway off the rear of the remodeled kitchen.
3. A wet bar and a desk area make good use of the former makeshift pantry.
4. The small cafe table was replaced by storage cabinets and a large side-by-side refrigerator.
5. A farmhouse sink with a window above can handle the dishes for a family of five.
6. The planned counter space on either side of the new range gives plenty of room for meal preparation.
7. A peninsula provides additional counter space with casual seating for kids on one side and a built-in high-speed oven on the other.
8. The new breakfast area holds a sideboard and a table big enough for the whole family.

FLOOR PLANS: IAN WINGFIELD

THE MATERIALS

Outfitting a kitchen for a family with three growing children means choosing hardworking materials, fixtures, and appliances. Here are some of the choices the Smiths made.

1. DUAL-FUEL RANGE. Large enough to handle a full meal for five, this 36 inch, six burner unit uses easy-to-control gas for the cooktop and even heating electricity for the oven.
2. BACKSPLASH TILE. Easy-to-clean tile can take splatters from the stove better than painted surfaces. A 1920s-inspired design of 3 by-6 inch crackle-finish tiles bordered with smaller 1 by-2-inch tiles (below) adds character and depth to the expanse of white wall.
3. ENGINEERED-OAK FLOORING. This prefinished flooring can stand up to the foot traffic of three schoolkids, and its oak veneer is thick enough for up to three sandings, should the Smiths want to refinish years from now.
4. STONE COUNTERTOPS. Less porous and more durable than soapstone, Pietra del Cardoso, a compressed sandstone from Cardoso, Italy, doesn't require a lot of maintenance and looks as elegant as granite or marble.
5. BRUSHED NICKEL BIN PULLS. Period-appropriate pulls give both big and little hands the grip needed to open drawers without a struggle.
6. PULL-DOWN SPRAY FAUCET. Out of the way of tall pots, this arched faucet includes a pull-down spray to extend its reach.

PHOTOS, CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: LUIS BRUNO; MTONKRAUS; KOHLER; REJUVENATION HARDWARE

WHERE TO FIND IT – SEE DIRECTORY – PAGE 146

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Norm's Notebook

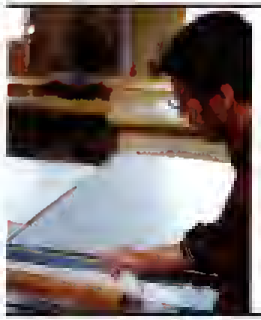


Table-Saw Push Stick

The fact that I've been using a table saw for so long and still have all my fingers tells you how seriously I take saw safety. And one of the best safety devices I've found is one you can make for yourself: a stout push stick.

A push stick lets you keep control of your stock while keeping your fingers well clear of the blade (which should be only ¼ inch or so above the stock anyway). My version, cut from a foot-long scrap of ¾-inch birch plywood, has a shoelike shape with a handle at the top. The heel of the "shoe" hooks onto the stock and pushes it forward. But what sets this push stick apart is the long "toe" section, which provides plenty of leverage for holding stock in place.

The actual dimensions of a push stick aren't important, just make it sturdy enough so the handle won't snap. Sketch the outline on a piece of scrap, rough it out with a jigsaw, then smooth the edges to make the stick comfortable to hold. Insurance doesn't come any cheaper than this.

Hauling Safely

If you want to see some ingenious rigs sometime, drive by a home-center parking lot on a Saturday morning—you won't believe what people strap to their vehicles or how they do it.

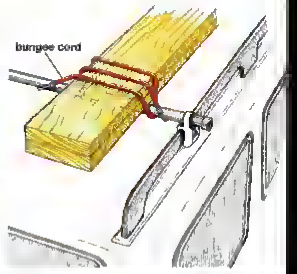
One thing that always makes me nervous is to see loads tied off to those sliding eyelets built into the sides of luggage racks. I don't trust those things, not after losing a Zodiac inflatable boat off the top of my SUV when an eyelet broke loose. Same goes for hauling small loads of lumber home. I always anchor them directly to the rails of the rack, never to the eyelets.

My favorite tie-down devices for this purpose are bungee cords. I always have a handful of them along, in assorted sizes. Whenever I use them, I keep the following rules firmly in mind:

1. Don't overtighten them; their metal hooks can straighten and pop loose under excessive pressure.

2. Use long bungees and make two or more turns around the objects you're hauling. That way they won't slide when you hit the brakes. The more loops you make, the greater the holding power.

3. Tie the load in at least two places, making sure both ends of the cord are hooked securely to a part of the rack that won't bust loose.



Touching Up a Chisel

PHOTO: KELLER & KELLER
ILLUSTRATIONS: HEATHER LAMBERT

In all the years I've been doing carpentry, there's always been a 1-inch chisel in my tool pouch. If I'm notching deck posts or mortising hinges or whatever, sometimes I'll need it more than I do a pencil.

But to be effective a chisel has to be sharp. Good thing it's easy to keep it that way. I'm not talking about a long, fussy session at the grinding wheel. Most of the time, all you need is a quick touch-up to hone the blade to a workable sharpness.

My father always kept an oilstone and lubricating oil in his toolbox for just that purpose, but I've found that a small, fine diamond whetstone is more durable, less messy (the lubricant is water), and just as effective.

Whenever I notice my chisel isn't cutting cleanly, I dampen the whetstone, hold the blade's bevel flat against it, and, without changing the tool's angle, swipe it over the stone in a few long, oval motions. Then, holding the back of the blade (the side opposite the bevel) flat against the stone, I make a few passes to remove any burr created by the first strokes.

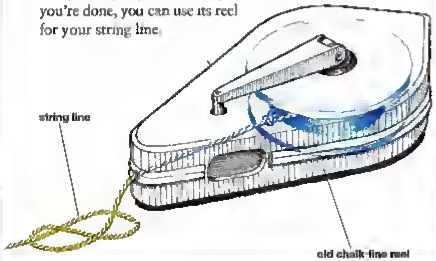
If you do this before the edge gets really dull, it takes only a few minutes. And the effort you save by working with a keen blade will easily make up for the time you spent sharpening it.

String Untangler

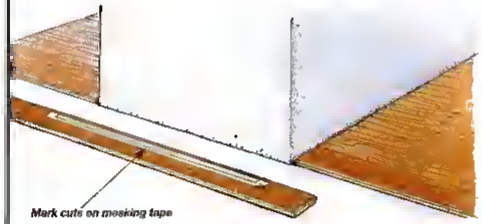
A hundred feet of string line is probably one of the most unappreciated tools in construction. It's indispensable when straightening framed walls or deck joists, laying up concrete blocks, or marking out the perimeter of a patio. Once you're done, though, you've got all that string to rewind, and keep untangled for next time. Wrapping it around a stick works okay, but I know some better ways.

When I was working with my dad, we put our old chalk line reels to good use as string-line reels. We just disassembled and cleaned out the reel, then tied mason's line to its spool, sort of like the way you'd rig a yo-yo. That way, when we were done with the string, we simply cranked it back into the reel. We never had a problem with tangled lines again.

Another trick is to notch a scrap piece of ½-inch plywood at each end, then wind the string around that. Or if someone tells you to go fly a kite, do it. When you're done, you can use its reel for your string line.



Tricks for Laying a Prefinished Floor



I recently spent a weekend helping a friend and his wife lay engineered flooring. Here are a couple of tips I picked up in the process—tips you probably won't read about in the installation instructions.

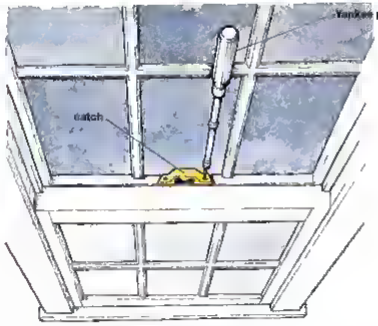
First, get yourself some good, nonmarring kneepads. You'll spend a lot of time on your knees installing an engineered floor, and kneepads make the difference between barely enduring the job and getting it done fairly easily.

Also, have a roll of masking tape handy. The rough finish combined with the dark-stained wood we were using made it difficult to see our penciled cut lines, particularly when scribing. So I just laid down a length of tape and marked that. (The tape also protects the finish from being scratched by a saw cutting along the scribe line.) After making the cut, I just peeled off the tape.

Installing Sash Locks

Installing or replacing window sash locks is one of those modest but baffling little jobs. Do you install one piece before the other, and if so, which one? Or do you assemble the two pieces of the lock and install them as a unit? Here's how I do it.

First, I put the catch (also called the "strike" or "keeper") on the meeting rail of the upper sash, lined up with the rail's inside edge. There's no room to get an electric drill in there, so I drill pilot holes with a Yankee push drill or, if the sash is made of soft wood, with a scratch awl. After screwing the catch into place, I engage the locking half of the hardware with it as if I were locking the window, and then mark its holes on the lower sash. But I actually drill these holes just a touch farther away from my marks (toward the room). This ensures that the slider will engage the hook with just enough force to tighten the sash together and block air leaks.



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WHERE TO FIND IT — SEE DIRECTORY — PAGE 148

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DIRECTORY

WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 147 • PROGRAM SCHEDULE, PAGE 150 • TV CLASSICS, PAGE 152

PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER MERETSKY

ON THE JOB
pp. 18–24

Theme song composer: Peter Bell, Bell Music, Watertown, MA, 866-321-2355, www.bellmusic.com. Before & After: Laughing Sun Renovations, Atlanta, GA, 678-592-1852, www.laughingsunrenovations.com. Plastic paint: Krylon Products Group, Cleveland, OH, 800-457-9566, www.krylon.com. Wobble Light: Wobble Light LLC, Chicago, IL, 773-463-5900, www.wobblelight.com. Tool bag: Veto Pro Pac, Norwalk, CT, 877-547-1443, www.vetopropac.com

HOUSE CALLS
pp. 28–30

Kitchen designer: Alan Asarnow, CMKBD, CR, Ulrich Inc., Ridgewood, NJ, 201-445-1260, www.ulrichkitchens.com. Custom cabinetry: Essex door style in cherry, Wood-Mode, Kreamer, PA, 717-374-2711, www.wood-mode.com. Range: #ERD48, Dacor, Diamond Bar, CA, 800-772-7778, www.dacor.com. Tin tile: Standard Tinsmith & Roofer Supply Corp., New York, NY, 212-674-2240. Corner sink: #AMX671-E, Franke, Harfield, PA, 800-626-5771, www.frankeksd.com. Cook sink: #K-3318, Kohler, Kohler, WI, 800-456-4537, www.kohler.com. High-speed oven: Advantium, GE Appliances, 800-626-2000, www.geappliances.com. Stainless asparagus cooker, kitchen towels, runner rug, storage baskets, tiered basket, kitchen utensils, pizza board, dessert plates, and napkins, all available at Crate & Barrel, 800-996-9960, www.crateandbarrel.com

"Pull Up a Seat," p. 47. What better way to take in your garden than from a bench, whether it's traditional or whimsical, like this "stone" version made of fiberglass

ASK THIS OLD HOUSE
pp. 34–39

Concrete sealant: OKON W#2 Water Repellent Sealer, OKON, Inc. Denver, CO, 800-237-0565, www.okoninc.com. Moss control: Hose 'n Go Moss Out Cleaner, Lilly Miller Brands, Clackamas, OR, 503-451-4451, www.lillymiller.com. Cabinetry industry standards: The National Kitchen & Bath Association, Hackettstown, NJ, 800-843-6522, www.nkba.org

PULL UP A SEAT
pp. 47–48

Garden benches—
Traditional: Lutyens Bench #727412 from Smith & Hawken, 800-940-1170, www.smithandhawken.com. Whimsical: Scroll Garden Bench from Spirit Elements, Boulder, CO, 800-511-1440, www.spiritelements.com. Rustic: Granite Garden Bench #4708

from Charleston Gardens, Charleston, SC, 800 469-0118, www.charlestongardens.com.
Decorative: Charelston Gardens Bench #4319 from Charleston Gardens.
Lightweight: Folding Bench #OF-3113 from Shop NC, Greenville, SC, 888 425 4500, www.shop-nc.com.
High-style: Spur Song Bench from Diamond Teak, Sellersville, PA, 877-874 8325, www.diamondteak.com.

TALKING SNOP: NOT STUFF
pp. 50–53

Electric heat gun: Heavy-duty variable-temperature heat gun Model #8977-20, Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation, Brookfield, WI, 800-729 3878, www.mil-electric.tool.com. Electric soldering tools: Weller universal multipurpose soldering gun with dual heat (140/100 watts) and Weller 25 watt lighted soldering iron, Cooper Tools, Barrie, Ontario, Canada; www.coopertools.com. Trigger-start cast- aluminum torch head: Model # TS4000T, Bernz-Omatic, Newell Company, Medina, NY, 800 654-9011, www.bernzomatic.com. Oxygen/MAPP gas brazing/welding/cutting torch kit: Model #OX2550KC, BernzOmatic.
Torch gases: Propane, MAPP, and oxygen all from BernzOmatic. Oxygen-acetylene torch: Model # WT5000,

Homeowner's Handbook, p. 73. Installing landscape lighting enhances safety, security, and ambience; read how to do it

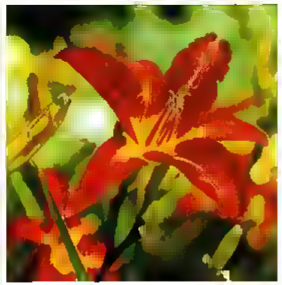
Campbell Hausfeld, Harrison, OH, 800-543-6400, www.chpower.com.

LUXURIES: DREAM GRILLS
pp. 55–58

Kalamazoo sculpture series: Kalamazoo Grills, 269 342-8777, www.kalamazoogrills.com.
Magma Del Mar: Magma Products, Long Beach, CA, 800-866 2462, www.magmaproducts.com.
Viking T-Series: Viking Ranges, Greenwood, MS, 877 834 8222, www.vikingrange.com.
Solaire Infared Grill: Solaire, Whittier, CA, 800-782 1365, www.solairegrill.com.
Weber Ranch Kettle: Weber-Stephen Products Co., Palatine, IL, 800-446-1071, www.weber.com.
Electri-Chef: 800-442-7207, www.electri-chef.com.
Big Green Egg: Atlanta, GA, 404-321-4658, www.biggreenegg.com.
Grill Alert Talking Thermometer: Brookstone, 866-576-7337, www.brookstone.com.
Charcoal: Maple Leaf Hardwood Charcoal, King Smoke Distributors, Omaha, NE, 402-397-8227, www.kingsmoke.com.
Our thanks to: Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association, Arlington, VA, www.hpba.org.

NOMEOWNER'S NANOBOOK: INSTALLING LANOSCAPE LIGNTING
pp. 73–80

Installed hanging lantern lights: Malibu Lights #CS120TA from the Canterbury Collection, Intermatic, Inc., Spring Grove, IL, 815 675-7000.
Page 76—
1) China hat style 12V area light #AL-04, Focus Industries, Inc., Lake Forest, CA, 888 882-1350. 2) Path light #5202, Vista Professional Outdoor Lighting, Simi Valley, CA, 800-766-8478. 3) Textured architectural bronze path and spread light #15317AZT, Kichler Lighting, Cleveland, OH, 800 875 4216, www.kichler.com. 4) Path and garden patina bronze Mission lamp #15319PZ, Kichler Lighting. 5) Vetdi



"Daylilies," p. 90. These easy-to-grow perennials have long been popular, now there are more varieties to choose from

12V halogen Path Light #9266, Vista Professional Outdoor Lighting. 6) Bollard/beacon light #8202, Vista Professional Outdoor Lighting. 7) Tiffany-style light, Malibu Lights #CS150, from the Canterbury Collection, Intermatic, Inc. 8) Copper umbrella path/garden light, #15316CO, Kichler Lighting.

DAYLILIES
pp. 80–84

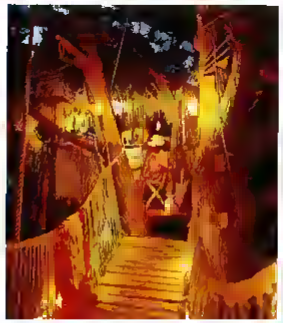
Our thanks to: R. Seawright, Specialists in Fine Daylilies and Hostas, Carlisle, MA, www.daylilies-hostas.com for an online catalog and/or directions to the nursery.
For further information: American Hemerocallis Society, www.daylilies.org, or consult one of the group's publications, such as *The New Daylily Handbook for 2002* ($30), an in depth refetence guide.

UP A TREE
pp. 98–102

Tree-house builders and designers: Jake Jacob and Peter Nelson, TreeHouse Workshop, Seattle, WA, 206-784 1424, www.treehouseworkshop.com. Michael Garnet, Treehouse Construction, Takilma, OR, www.treehouses.com
For further information: *The Treehouse Book*, by Petet Nelson, Judy Nelson, and David Larkin (Universe Books, 2000)

PHOTOS: PETER MENZEL (LEFT); WEBB CHAPPELL (RIGHT)

PHOTO: JULIA RUBIN



"Up a Tree," p. 96. Tree houses can be sophisticated grown-up getaways

Special thanks to: Anna Daeuble for her keen eye, deft hand, and limitless patience

A WELCOMING HOME
pp. 104–108

Architect: Duo Dickinson, Architect, Madison, CT, 203 245 0405, www.angelfire.com/ct2/DuoDickinson.
Contractor: John Detnoga, East Longmeadow, MA, 413-525 1695. Landscape architect: Diane M. Devore of Devore Associates, LLC, Fairfield, CT, 203-256-8950

INSTALLING A FLAGSTONE PATN
pp. 110–114

Landscape contractor: Fernrock Landscapes, Emmaus, PA, 610 966-4044

STAIRS WITH A TWIST
pp. 118–124

Architects: Jeremiah Eck Architects, Inc., Boston, MA, 617-367-9696, www.jearch.com. Dennis Wedlick Architect, LLC, New York, NY, 212 625 9222, www.dennswedlick.com
Our thanks to: Bart Whitstandley, Harmonson Stairs, Mount Laurel, NJ, 856 235-7511, www.harmonson.com.

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OPEN-AIR ROOMS
pp. 128–138

Landscape contractor: Roger Cook, K & R Tree and Landscape, Burlington, MA, 781 272 6104.
Architect: Doug Pfendler, AIA, Kansas City, MO, 816 891 7804.

DREAM WEAVING
pp. 138–141

Design/build firm: Lake Forest Landmark Development, Lake Forest, IL. Faucet: Vinnata faucet by Kohler Co., Kohler, WI, 800 456-4537, www.kohler.com.
Counters: Pietra del Cardoso from Giovanni D'Angiolo, Lucca, Italy, 011 39 0584-743657, gdangiolo@tin.it. Supplied by Poma Marble Inc., Rosemont, IL, 847-678-7662, www.pomamarble.com.
Drawer pulls: Rejuvenation Hardware #8816 in brushed nickel, Rejuvenation, Inc., Portland, OR, 888-401-1900, www.rejuvenation.com.
Tiles: Michael S. Smith Collection for Ann Sacks 3 by 6 inches in White Crackle and Ann Sacks Collection 1 by 2 inches in Candle White, Ann Sacks Tile and Stone, Portland, OR, 800-278 8453, www.annsacks.com. Range: 36 inch Pro Line Dual Fuel Range, Model # KDRP467KSS, KitchenAid, 888 222-8608, www.KitchenAid.com. Cabinets: Lakeview in inset with painted finish, Plain & Fancy Custom Cabinetry, Schaefferstown, PA, 800-447-9006, www.plainfancycabinetry.com. Floorings: American Craftsman Wellington Oak-Coffee WECS-40, Mohawk Industries, Dalton, GA, 800 266-4295, www.mohawkflooring.com.

NORM'S NOTEBOOK
pp. 143–144

Yankee push drill: Stanley #03043, Stanley Tools, New Britain, CT, 800-262-2161, www.stanleytools.com.
Diamond wetstones: DMT Diamond Whetstones, Diamond Machining Technology, Inc., Malborough, MA, 800-666-4368, www.dmtsharp.com.

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ARIZONA

BISBEE
KAET, Thu. 3pm (*Ask*); Sat. 8am & 3pm (*TOH/Ask*)
● KTVK/KASW

MESA
KAET, Sat. 6pm (*TOH/Ask*); Sat. 10am (*TOH*)
● KTTV/KSAZ

ARKANSAS

BATH (Arkansas Educational TV Network)
Sat. 12:30pm (*Ask/TOH*)

CAMDEN
KETG, affiliate of AETN

FAYETTEVILLE
KAFT affiliate of AETN

HOT SPRINGS
● KVBV/KTPM

JONESBORO
KTEJ, affiliate of AETN

LITTLE ROCK
KETS, affiliate of AETN
● KLTT/KSAN

TWIN BLUFF
KEMV, affiliate of AETN

CALIFORNIA

SPRINGVILLE
● KUVI

CHICO
● KBCR

EUREKA
KEET check local listings
● KADP

FRESNO
KVPT check local listings
● KPSN

HUNTINGTON BEACH
KOCE, check local listings

LOS ANGELES
KCET Sat. 9pm (*TOH/Ask*)
KLCS, Sat. 4:30pm (*TOH*)
KOCE, Mon. 1:30pm, Sat. 4pm (*Ask*); Wed. 1:30pm, Sat. 4:30pm (*TOH*)
KVCR, Thu. 8pm (*TOH/Ask*)
● KTLA

MONTEREY/SALINAS
● KCHA/KION

PALM SPRINGS
● KPSP

REDDING
● KDIC, check local listings

SACRAMENTO
KVIE, Thu. 7pm, Sat. 8am & 6pm (*TOH/Ask*)
KVIE2 Sat. 1:30pm (*TOH/Ask*)
● KCVU

SAN BERNARDINO
KVCR, Thu. 7pm (*TOH/Ask*)

SAN DIEGO
KPBS, Thu. 8pm (*TOH/Ask*); Sat. 6:30pm (*TOH*)
● KGTV

SAN FRANCISCO
KQED, Sat. 5pm (*TOH/Ask*)
● KPIX

SAN JOSE
KTEH check local listings

SAN MATEO
KCSM Sun 10am (*TOH*)

SANTA BARBARA
● KSBY

COLORADO

COLORADO SPRINGS
● KRDO

DENVER
● (DT. Wed. 4:30pm, Sat. 4pm, Sun. 6pm (*TOH*); Sat. 2 p.m. (*Ask*)
KRMA, Sat. 4:30pm (*TOH/Ask*); Sun. 3:30 (*TOH*)
● KCNC

GRAND JUNCTION
KRMJ, check local listings
● KJCT

PUEBLO
KTSC, check local listings

CONNECTICUT

BRIDGEPORT
WEDW same as WEDH Hartford

HARTFORD
WEDH Sat. 7pm, Thu. 11pm, Sat. 10:30am (*TOH/Ask*)
● WTNH/WFSB

NEW HAVEN
WEDY same as WEDH Hartford

NORWICH
WEDN, same as WEDH Hartford

FLORIDA

BONITA SPRINGS
WGCU, check local listings

DAYTONA BEACH
WCEU Tue 10pm, Sat. 8pm (*TOH*); Mon 10pm, Sun. 4:30pm (*Ask*)

FORT MYERS
WGCU, Thu. 8pm, Sat. 1:30pm (*TOH/Ask*)
● WZVN

GAINESVILLE
WUFT check local listings

JACKSONVILLE
WJCT, Sat. 10pm (*TOH/Ask*)
● WJCT

MIAMI
WLRN Sat. 2pm (*TOH*)
WPBT, Sat 8am (*TOH/Ask*)
● WSFL

ORLANDO
WMFE, Sat. 5pm (*Ask*); 5:30pm (*TOH*)
● WKCF

PANAMA CITY
WJSU, check local listings

PENSACOLA
WSRE, check local listings

SARASOTA
● WWSB

TALLAHASSEE
WFSU, check local listings

TAMPA
WTVU Sat. 12am (*Ask/TOH*)
WUSF Wed. 9pm, Sun. 5:30pm (*TOH*); Sun 8pm (*Ask*)
● WMOR/WSCN

WEST PALM BEACH
WXEL Thu. 8pm (*TOH/Ask*); Sat. 7pm (*Ask/TOH*)
● WPTV

GEORGIA

ALBANY
● WSST

ATLANTA
WCTV Thu. 8pm (*TOH/Ask*); Sat. 11am & 6pm (*Ask*), Sun 12 noon (*TOH*); Sat. 12 noon, Sun. 11am (*Ask*)
WPBA, Wed. 10pm, Sat. 6pm (*TOH/Ask*)
● WXIA

ATLANTA
WETA, same as WGTV Atlanta
● WLTV

CHATTANOOGA
WLIP same as WGTV Atlanta

COCHRAN
WPGO same as WGTV Atlanta

COLUMBUS
WJSP same as WGTV Atlanta
● WLTZ

GAINESVILLE
WACS, same as WGTV Atlanta

MACON
● WPGA

PELHAM
WABW, same as WGTV Atlanta

SAVANNAH
WVAN same as WGTV Atlanta
● WJCL/WTGS

WATKINSVILLE
WGSA, same as WGTV Atlanta

WAYCROSS
WGES, same as WGTV Atlanta

HAWAII

HONOLULU
KHET Sat. 2:30pm (*TOH/Ask*)

IDAHO

BOISE
KAID, Sun. 4:30pm (*TOH/Ask*)
● KTVB

COEUR D'ALENE
KCDT Sun. 3:30pm (*TOH/Ask*)

TWIN FALLS
● KFXK/KPVI

BURLEY
KUID, Sun. 2:30pm (*TOH/Ask*)

POCATELLO
KISU, Sun. 4:30pm (*TOH/Ask*)

SUN VALLEY
KSPS Sun. 3:30pm (*TOH/Ask*)

ILLINOIS

CARBONDALE
WSIU, check local listings

CHAMPAIGN/URBANA
WILL, Thu. 7pm, Sat. 10am, Sun. 2pm (*TOH/Ask*)

CHARLESTON
WEIU, check local listings

CHICAGO
WTTW, Sat. 3:30 p.m (*TOH/Ask*)
WYCC, Tue. 7:30pm (*Ask*); Sat. 6pm (*TOH*)
WTTW Thu. 7pm (*TOH*); Tue. (1:30am, Sat. 10am (*Ask*)
● WCIU

DECATUR
● WANE

JACKSONVILLE
WIRC, check local listings

MOLINE
WQPT check local listings

OLNEY
WUSI, check local listings.

PEORIA
WTVP Thu. 7pm, Sat. 1:30pm (*TOH/Ask*)
● WAOE

QUINCY
WMEC, check local listings
WQSC, check local listings
● WGEM

SPRINGFIELD
WGBY Thu. 8pm (*TOH/Ask*)

MICHIGAN

ALPENA
WCML, check local listings

ANN ARBOR
WUCX check local listings

CADILLAC
WCMV check local listings
● WTVW/WFUP

DETROIT
WTVS, Thu. 8pm (*TOH/Ask*); Sat. 11am (*TOH*)
● WDIV

EAST LANSING
WKAR, Thu. 9pm (*TOH/Ask*); Sat. 1:30pm & 5:30pm (*TOH*)

FLINT
WDCY/WDCQ, check local listings
WFUM, check local listings.
● WNEM

GRAND RAPIDS
WGVU, Thu. 8pm (*TOH/Ask*); Sat. 3am (*Ask/TOH*)
● WOOD/WOTV/WWKP

KALAMAZOO
WGVK, same as WGVU Grand Rapids

LANSING
● WHTV

MARQUETTE
WLAW, check local listings

MARQUETTE
WNMU Sun. 7pm, Sat. 1:30pm (*TOH/Ask*)
● WBKP

MOUNT PLEASANT
WCMU check local listings

UNIVERSITY CENTER
WUCM check local listings

MINNESOTA

APPLETON
KSMN check local listings
KWCM, Thu. 10pm (*TOH/Ask*); Sat. 12:30pm (*TOH*), Sun. 2pm (*Ask/TOH*)

AUSTIN
KSMQ check local listings

DULUTH
KDSE check local listings
WDSE, Thu. 7pm (*TOH/Ask*); Sat. 12:30pm (*TOH*); Sun. 6pm (*TOH/Ask*)
● KTCI

MANKATO
KMSU check local listings

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL
KTCA Thu. 7pm (*TOH/Ask*); Sat. 10:30am & 5:30pm (*Ask/TOH*)
KTCD-DT check local listings
TPT Thu. 8pm, Sat. 5:30pm (*TOH/Ask*)
● KSTP/KSTC

ROCHESTER
● KXLT

MISSISSIPPI

BILOXI
WMAH check local listings

BOONEVILLE
WMAE, check local listings

DIXIE
WMAU, check local listings

COLUMBUS/TUPELO
● WCBI

GREENWOOD
WMAO, check local listings
● WXTV

JACKSON
WMPN check local listings
● WDBD/WJKD

NATCHEZ
WMAW check local listings

MISSISSIPPI STATE
WMAB, check local listings

OXFORD
WMAV, Sat 6pm (*Ask/TOH*)

MISSOURI

TRI-CITIES
● KMIZ/KQFX

FORTALES
KENW Wed. 6:30pm (*Ask*); Sat. 4pm (*TOH*)

NEW YORK

ALBANY
● WXXA

BINGHAMTON
WSKG check local listings
● WSNG

BUFFALO
WNED Sat. 6pm (*TOH/Ask*)
WNEQ, check local listings
● WIVB/WNLO

BURLINGTON
● WCAX

CHAUTAUQUA
WQLN, check local listings
● WJET
● WFXP

HARRISBURG
WITF, Sat 9am & 6pm (*TOH/Ask*)
● WHTM

PHILADELPHIA
WHYY Thu. 8pm, Sat. 6pm (*TOH/Ask*)
WNJN, check local listings
● WGTW

PITTSBURGH
WQED Thu. 8pm (*Ask*); Sat. 6pm (*Ask/TOH*)
WQEH, Thu. 8pm(*TOH/Ask*); Sat. 4pm (*TOH*)
WQEX, same as WQED Pittsburgh
● KDKA/WPNP

PITTSTON
WVIA, check local listings.

WASHINGTON BORO
WPSX, check local listings

WILKES-BARRE
● WYLN

RHODE ISLAND

PROVIDENCE
WEDH Thu. 11pm, Sat. 7pm, Sun. 10:30am (*TOH/Ask*)
WSBE, Sat. 8pm, Sun. 6pm (*TOH*)
● WLWC

SOUTH CAROLINA

ALLENDALE
WEBA, same as SCETV Columbia

BEAUFORT
WJWJ, same as SCETV Columbia

CHARLESTON
WITV same as SCETV Columbia

COLUMBIA
SCETV Thu. 8pm (*TOH/Ask*); Sat. 8am (*TOH*)
● WLTX

CONWAY
WHMC, same as SCETV Columbia

FLORENCE/MYRTLE BEACH
WJPM same as SCETV Columbia
● WPDE/WFXB

GREENVILLE
WNTV same as SCETV Columbia
WNEH, same as SCETV Columbia

HONEA PELL
WNSC, same as SCETV Columbia

SPARTANBURG
WRET same as SCETV Columbia

SUMTER
WKJA, same as SCETV Columbia

SOUTH DAKOTA

BROOKINGS
KESD check local listings

EAGLE BUTTE
KPSD, check local listings

MARTIN
KZSD, check local listings

MOBRIDGE/EDGEMONT
KQSD, check local listings

MOORE
KTSD, check local listings

NEW TOWN
KMHE, check local listings
KANE, check local listings
● KEVN/KDLV

PIERRE/FALLS
KCSD check local listings
KDSD, check local listings
● KTTW

WILMILLION
KUSD, check local listings

TENNESSEE

CHATTANOOGA
WCLP check local listings
WTCI, Sat. 6pm (*TOH/Ask*)
● WSH

COOKEVILLE
WCTE Sat. 12:30pm (*TOH/Ask*)

JACKSON
● WDXI

KNOXVILLE
WKOP check local listings
WSJK, check local listings

LEXINGTON-MARTIN
WLJT check local listings

MEMPHIS
WKNO, Sat. 4:30pm (*Ask/TOH*) & 7pm (*TOH/Ask*)
WMAV, Sat 8pm (*Ask/TOH*)
● WLMT

NASHVILLE
WDCN check local listings
WNPT Sat. 4:30pm (*TOH*)

TRI-CITIES
● WKPT/WAPK

TEXAS

AMARILLO
KACV, Thu. 7pm, Sat. 12:30pm (*TOH/Ask*)
● KAMR

BEEVILLE
KLRU, check local listings
● KIII

CLEBURNE/DALLAS
KERA check local listings
● KTCU

DALLAS/FORT WORTH
KERA, Sat. 8pm (*TOH/Ask*); Sat. 6:30pm (*TOH*)
● KDAF

EL PASO
KCOS, check local listings
KEWU check local listings

HARLINGEN
KMBH check local listings
● KVEO

HOUSTON
KUHT Thu. 8pm, Sat. 12:30pm (*TOH/Ask*); Sun. 11 30am (*TOH*)
● KTBU

JOLLETT
KNCT check local listings

LUBBOCK
KTXT check local listings
● KUPT

ODESSA
KOCV check local listings

SAN ANTONIO
KLRN Sat 1:30pm (*TOH/Ask*); Thu. 2:30pm (*Ask*)
● KSAT

TYLER
● KLPN/KPXK

WACO
KCTF check local listings.
KWBU check local listings
● KXXV/WAJH

WICHITA FALLS/LAWTON
KAMU check local listings

UTAH

BRIGHT
KUEN Sat. 8:30am, Sat. 2pm, & 3:30pm (*TOH*)

SALT LAKE CITY
KUED Sat 9am (*Ask/TOH*); Sat. 8am & 2:30pm (*TOH*)
● KUTZ

VERMONT

BURLINGTON
WETK Vermont Public TV Thu. 8pm (*TOH/Ask*)
● WCAX

RUTLAND
WETK, same as WETK Burlington

ST JOHNSBURY
WVTB, same as WETK Burlington

WINDSOR
WVTA, same as WETK Burlington

VIRGINIA

CHARLOTTESVILLE
WHTJ, check local listings

FALLS CHURCH
WNVT check local listings

HARRISONBURG
WVPT Thu. 8pm (*TOH/Ask*); Sat. 1:30pm (*TOH*)
WVPY check local listings

HARRISON
WMBY check local listings

ROANOKE
WBRA, check local listings
● WSLS

WASHINGTON

CENTRALIA
KCKA same as KBTC Tacoma

PULLMAN
KWSU, check local listings

RICHMOND
KTNW check local listings

SEATTLE
KCTS, Sun. 5pm (*TOH/Ask*); Mon. 7:30pm (*Ask*)
● KING5/KONG

SPOKANE
KSPS, Sat. 10am (*TOH/Ask*)
● KXLY

TACOMA
KBTC, Sat. 12:30pm & 3:30pm, Thu. 9pm (*TOH*)

YAKIMA
KYVE, check local listings
● KAPH/KEVW

WASHINGTON, D.C.

WETA, Sun. 5p.m. (*Ask/TOH*)
WHUT Sat. 1:30pm (*TOH*)
● WBC.

WEST VIRGINIA

BECKLEY
WSWP check local listings.

CHARLESTON
WOUB, check local listings
WPBO, check local listings
● WOWK

CLARKSBURG
● WBOY

HUNTINGTON
WPBY check local listings

WISCONSIN

GREEN BAY
WPNE, check local listings
● WGBA/WACY

LA CROSSE
WHLA, check local listings
● WKBT

MADISON
WHA check local listings
● WMSC/XTVW

MINOCQUA
WHRM, check local listings

MILWAUKEE
WMVS Thu. 7pm, Fri. 5am, Sat. 8am (*TOH/Ask*)
WMVT Wed. 8pm (*Ask*)
● WTMJ/WHCI

RHINELANDER
WLEF check local listings

WAUSAU
WHRM, check local listings
● WJFW

WYOMING

CASPER
● KFNB/KWYY

CHEYENNE/TORRINGTON
KTNE, check local listings

RIVERTON
KCWC, check local listings

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This Old House CLASSICS

This Old House Classics: **A week-by-week synopsis of vintage episodes airing on HGTV and broadcast television**

For stations that carry *TOH Classics* in your area, check TV Listings, page 150.

Younger but no less wise, Norm Abram and Tom Silva **(ABOVE)** *compare notes. Richard Trethewey* **(BELOW)** *scopes out the house for radiant baseboard heat.*

The crew of *This Old House* renovated this 1910 Colonial Revival in Lexington, Massachusetts, back in 1988.

Episode 8 (of 26) (airs May 3–4)

- The two car garage is framed roofed and partially sided in cedar clapboards
- In the cellar homeowner Mary Van Sinek considers storage options and the possibility of incorporating a home office
- *TOH* master carpenter Norm Abram and *TOH* general contractor Tom Silva create a casing for the exterior windows that's in keeping with local New England architecture.
- Security specialist Don Martini introduces the new home protection system.
- Tom and Norm install three tab asphalt shingles around the twin skylights
- *TOH* plumbing and heating expert Richard Trethewey explains why radiant baseboard heating and a whisper-quiet air-conditioning unit are worth the extra cost

Episode 9 (airs May 10–11)

- Norm explains his plan to dress the clapboard siding in cedar trim prepinned by Mary Van and her husband Jim
- Lighting consultant Dick Metchear talks about choices in fixtures—everything from track to freestanding—as well as the difference between mood and task lighting
- Audio specialist Dr. Amar Bose showcases the latest in built-in house stereo systems
- Richard inspects the heating unit selected by the Sineks to warm the main house

Episode 10 (airs May 17–18)

- Side trips to Blue Mountain Quarry in South Ryegate Vermont and Associated Memorial Products in Barre, Vermont show where many of the raw materials for the project's landscaping originate
- Landscape artist Roger Hopkins carefully shapes a slab of granite for the garden terrace with his arsenal of carbide-tipped tools
- Mary-Van looks at a selection of paint samples trying to decide on the perfect colors for the house's exterior

Episode 11 (airs May 24–25)

- Landscape architect Tom Wirth inspects the myriad plants as they are delivered then shows where some judicious tree removal might improve the look of the area next to the driveway
- Roger Hopkins checks the work on the granite steps and terrace
- Along the walls and ceiling of the main addition Tom installs ng d-loam insulation
- Dick Metchear returns to help narrow down the final lighting choices
- Jed Hamson a representative from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency addresses the issue of radon discussing its dangers how to detect it and what measures homeowners can take to protect themselves from this gas

Episode 12 (airs May 31–June 1)

- Tom heads up the construction of a new deck off the kitchen at the rear of the house
- Fireplace specialist Lou DeMaria is called in to explain the safety and space-saving virtues of the living room's "zero-clearance" fireplace
- Richard inspects some new PVC plumbing and offers a quick tutorial on the surest way to check pipes for leaks
- Mary-Van visits a nearby plumbing supply house to select new fixtures

PHOTO: RICHARD HOWARD (RIGHT)

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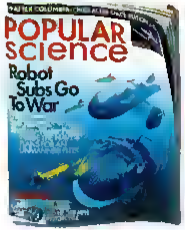

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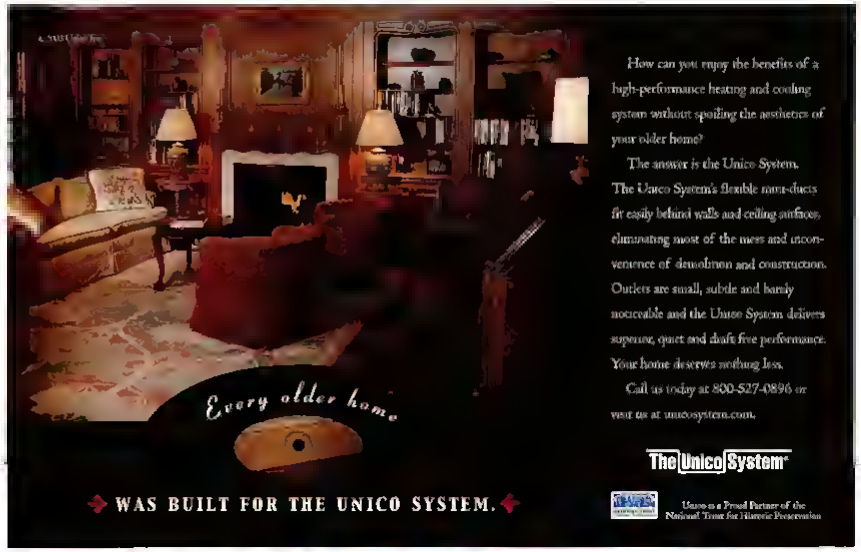

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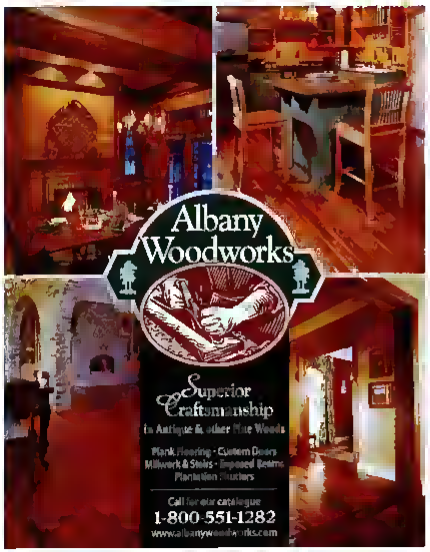

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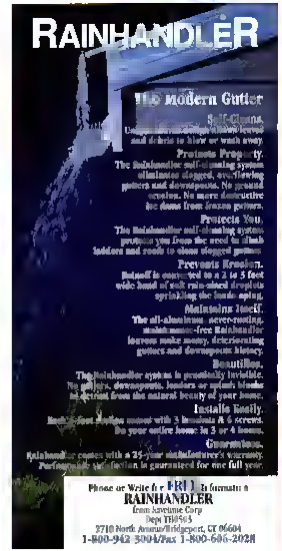
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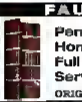

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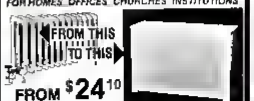

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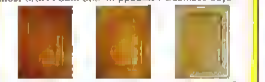

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Behind the stuccoed facade of this Mission-style house are walls built of what look like terra-cotta–colored cinder blocks. But the blocks aren't concrete, they're clay, a popular building material in the Midwest at the turn of the century. The 1910 house was built by Thomas McCrea, CEO of the Brazil Hollow Brick & Tile Company, one of some 30 area manufacturers that turned out clay products ranging from these simple blocks to conduits used to lay miles of telephone and electrical cable throughout the then-burgeoning West.

McCrea lived the rest of his life in the 3,344-square-foot residence with his mother and two unmarried sisters. The first floor comprises a guest bedroom, a living room, a dining room, and a library—the latter two with hand-painted canvas wall coverings. Three of the rooms have tiled fireplaces. In the rear are a butler's pantry and a kitchen with the original ice box. Upstairs are four bedrooms and a bathroom fitted out with a 1920s "surround shower" that sprays water from dozens of holes in its rectangular frame. There is also a full attic and a finished basement with a half-bath.

McCrea passed away in 1932, but his sister Agnes (Brazil's first librarian) lived in the house for another 45 years, until her death at age 99. The property was then acquired by another family, which occupied it for the next two decades. In 1997, the house was bought by Mark Dollase, an administrator with the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, but it has been unoccupied since he transferred to a new region about 10 months ago.

The structure's stucco needs repair and the original tile roof will eventually have to be replaced, but the systems of the house are in working order. The Historic Landmarks Foundation must approve changes to the exterior.

TOP: *This Mission-style house—with its stuccoed walls, roof parapet, tile roof, and deep eaves—is the only one of its kind in Brazil's Meridian Forest Historic District.* **ABOVE:** *The library has hand-painted wall coverings, an Arts and Crafts tile fireplace surround, and built-in leaded-glass cabinets.* **LEFT:** *A hinged-top oak window seat on the front stair landing opens for storage.*

CONTACT: Veda Bussing, 812-238-2526

If you know of a house that should be saved, please write to: Save This Old House, 1165 Avenue of the Americas, 27th floor, New York, NY 10036.

PHOTOS: BRANT WESSLER

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